



50 STEEL JOB LOSSES FEARED

Report by Richard Guttridge

FIFTY workers are facing redundancy after a steel maker which has operated in the Black Country for more than a century plunged into administration.

Bird Stevens in Quarry Bank has called in the administrators with its whole workforce understood to have been told that they no longer have a job.

The Unite union said workers had initially been told they would be allowed to come back to work but have now been informed they will be made redundant.

Administrators Milner Boardman has confirmed that it is handling the company's affairs. Bird Stevens has manufactured steel and iron at its factory at Merry Hill for decades.

Last year, all appeared to be going well for the firm when it was awarded a contract to supply metal cowls for use on Rolls Royce engines and the workforce was expanded by 10 per cent.

There was no sign of life at the factory on Monday where the shutters were down and main gates padlocked.

A worker at a nearby firm said no-one had been on the site for around four weeks.

A recorded message that has been left on the company's switchboard says the offices are currently closed.

Devastating

Unite's regional officer Caroline Crolley said she believed it was unlikely the company would be rescued.

She said: "Our members have been told they are being laid off. They had a letter telling them it was in administration."

"It's devastating. We are talking about workers who have served 20 years or more. It is one of those jobs that somebody takes and they stay with it until retirement."

Ms Crolley said the workers were sent home on April 12 on the understanding they would be able to resume their duties two weeks later.

She said the company's managing director had not been in contact with the union.

"They have already sent them the letter to claim for outstanding wages," she added.

Quarry Bank councillor David Sparks said: "This is very bad news as Bird Stevens are a part of the history of Quarry Bank. They are a long-standing company."

"Hopefully they will be able to come out of administration and revitalise and revive."

In February last year, Bird Stevens director Nicola Price said the company was going from strength to strength with orders coming in from both the UK and Europe.

She said at the time: "Our new business wins are a culmination of combining our traditional facilities with the latest high-tech equipment, coupled with innovation."

DAISY THE DOG IS JUST WIZARD IN TOTO ROLE



Elysia Stratton who plays Dorothy has brought her dog Daisy to play Toto in Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Society's production of The Wizard of Oz

A RESCUE dog is to get her moment in the limelight after being chosen to star in an upcoming production of The Wizard of Oz.

Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Society was struggling to find the right canine candidate for the role of Toto in their forthcoming production of The Wizard of Oz.

Then Elysia Stratton, from Stourbridge - who plays Dorothy - suggested her own miniature schnauzer Daisy should audition for the role.

Daisy, thought to be 10 years old, impressed bosses at the amateur theatre company, who

had been searching far and wide for their perfect Toto. In turn's out the perfect pooch was on their doorstep all along.

So Daisy is not in Stourbridge anymore - she is on the stage preparing for the show at Brierley Hill Civic Hall next month.

Kathryn Head, publicity officer for the society, said: "We had a real surprise when we were looking for Dorothy's little dog Toto. When Elysia brought Daisy along to rehearsals she was very attentive and well behaved - we realised that here was a star in the making."

Owner Elysia is confident Daisy won't be overawed by the audiences when the show goes live.

"She is a major attention seeker so she will just want fuss from everyone," said Elysia. "There are a few times when she has to run on stage to me and other characters. She follows me around and does some little barks."

The show will run from June 7 to 11. Tickets can be booked by calling 07913 884208 or online at the website www.qbmts.org.uk and tickets cost £11 adults, £10 children and £36 for a family ticket.

INDUSTRY

Extra £400k needed for new skills centre

AN £11.7m manufacturing training centre in Dudley will cost £400,000 more than expected after an oil pipeline was discovered running underneath the site.

The foundry and pattern making training block is poised to be built at Thomas Dudley, off Tipton Road, as part of The Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills, one of three in the Black Country.

But the discovery of a pipeline on the land in Dudley has meant bosses have had to apply for £400,000 more funding from the Government's Local Growth Fund to make the site suitable.

RETAIL

WH Smith to stay at Merry Hill centre

THE WH Smith store in Merry Hill shopping centre is to stay open after a deal was agreed to save it.

The iconic chain had announced the shop would close during June but bosses have now announced it will remain part of the Black Country shopping centre.

It means that jobs at the store have been saved.

Bosses at the company said they had 'reached an agreement with the landlord' to enable them to stay put.

EDUCATION

College recognised for course quality

STOURBRIDGE College has been awarded a quality mark for its provision of university-level courses for UK and international students.

It follows a review by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, which confirmed the college meets the national requirements for standards and quality for its learning provision across the Black Country and Birmingham.

Principal and chief executive Andrew Cleaves said: "This endorsement ensures the college can look forward to progressing even more of our students."

INSIDE

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Metro hope derails tourism train link

A LIGHT rail service linking Dudley and Sandwell has been dropped – as transport bosses cling to hopes of a Midland Metro extension between the two boroughs.

The 'very light rail' line between Dudley Port rail station and the town was to open in 2019 with the aim of boosting tourism.

But the route has been changed. It will now run from a new technology centre at the bottom of Castle Hill, through Dudley Tunnel to terminate close to Cinder Bank.

The decision was made to keep the former freight line clear for the planned Midland Metro extension from Wednesbury to Merry Hill.

Bosses say the very light rail line, which will serve as a testing facility for new railcar technology, required a stretch of tunnel.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for transport, Khurshid Ahmed, said changing the route of the service was part of 'looking at the wider picture'.

Revive

Earlier this year plans to revive the Midland Metro extension to Dudley, Merry Hill shopping centre and Brierley Hill were bolstered by £100,000 of funding toward the scheme.

Proposals are still on track for the technology centre, on the site of the former Dudley railway

station, with an opening date anticipated in 2019. The Very Light Rail Innovation Centre and testing track is part of a scheme by Warwick Manufacturing Group, which struck a deal with Dudley Council two years ago.

Councillor Ahmed said: "This re-route of the line has happened because of the Midland Metro extension to Dudley. We have to think bigger and realise the potential of the Metro which will link Dudley with not just Dudley Port but with Wednesbury and Merry Hill."

"This is not bad news, this is good news for the town – while at the same time we will see new rail technology being tested in our town centre."

Back-pay for workers in tribunal wage case

CONSTRUCTION workers employed by Dudley Council have won a battle to be paid the same rate during holidays as they normally receive, after taking the authority to a tribunal.

The council has been ordered to pay 56 workers between £300 and £700 in back-pay as well as the higher holiday rates in future, after a judge ruled in the workers' favour at an employment tribunal.

The row centred around extra voluntary shifts carried out on a regular basis by the employees who work in housing maintenance and construction in the borough.

Construction union UCATT argued that as the shifts made up part of their normal wage and so the workers should earn the same amount while taking holidays.

The union's regional secretary Shaun Lee said he believed the case could prove to be a watershed moment for construction workers.

He said: "We're very pleased with this victory, not just for the members concerned, but because it may well set a precedent for employment tribunals handling identical cases in the future."

"These workers were being paid at a higher level than their original contract said and so their holiday pay should reflect that. It's logical and that's how the tribunal saw it."

Bosses at Dudley Council said they were assessing their options following the decision and would look at the legal implications.

Drunk man slashed ex-partner's throat

A DRUNK man who attacked the mother of his three children with a knife has been jailed for more than 15 years.

Dudley man Karl Hughes cut his former partner Toni Bennett with the eight inch blade just yards away from their children.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday, Hughes, of George Close, Dudley, admitted attempting to murder Miss Bennett on November 21 last year and possession of cannabis.

Miss Bennett and Hughes had been together for 14 years, but his drinking problem and jealousy meant the relationship had become 'fraught' and he had moved out. But on the day before the attack Hughes had visited the home in Kates Hill after 'begging' Miss Bennett.

Mr Glyn Samuel, prosecuting, said he had then left under instruction from Miss Bennett but 'left a downstairs window un-latched'.

Vodka

The court heard how 31-year-old Hughes – who had drunk nearly a bottle of vodka – crept into their home through the unlocked window at around 2.15am.

Miss Bennett urged him to leave but Hughes pushed her to the floor. Mr Samuel said: "He straddled her and as she lay on the floor produced the knife. She screamed then he covered her mouth with his hand."

"He had pressure on her mouth, which was pushing her head back exposing her throat. She says she thought she was going to die. He brought the knife up towards her throat and began to saw at her neck."

The court heard that the pair's nine-year-old son then appeared and Hughes 'froze', before shoving the knife into Miss Bennett's shoulder.

She managed to escape and the emergency services were alerted. She suffered a three centimetre deep by ten centimetre long cut to her throat, cuts to her neck, a stab wound to her shoulder and 'significant' defensive wounds to her hands.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said it 'was out of character' for Hughes, who was 'genuinely remorseful'.

Hughes was jailed for 15 years and three months for attempted murder and one month for possession of cannabis to run concurrently, plus £120 victim surcharge.

Dancers in New York nightmare



Staff and pupils from the Stourbridge Dance Academy bed down on chairs in New York's Paramount Hotel

A DANCE school boss from Stourbridge has said she will battle for full compensation after a 'nightmare' trip to New York.

A group of youngsters from the town's Dance Academy were forced to sleep on the floor of a Big Apple hotel with cockroaches nearby.

The squad of 28 dancers ran into difficulties after arriving at the Roosevelt Hotel at 9pm, only to be told that it was full. It has emerged that Virgin Atlantic, which booked the £850-per-head trip, were told

months ago but never passed on the message to the dance school, who were on a trip that included the chance to dance on Broadway.

Now they claim compensation offered for their holiday problems is inadequate, after academy head Beverley Rabone racked up a £244 phone bill calling Virgin's emergency number in the UK.

She said: "It was awful. We got to the hotel – all 28 of us – only to be told we didn't have a reservation. Everybody was so tired after

a long-haul flight. It was a nightmare."

"Virgin kept saying they were 'dealing with it' but nothing happened for two days."

A Virgin Atlantic spokesman said: "We never want to disappoint our customers. We are investigating the situation and, as a gesture of goodwill, we are now offering the group a complete refund of their accommodation costs, all breakfasts, and a reimbursement of their phone bill."

Motorcyclist dies at collision scene

A MAN was killed when his motorcycle was involved in a crash with a car on the A455 between Bridgnorth and Stourbridge.

The road was closed throughout the afternoon after the crash at 1.15pm on Sunday. An investigation has been launched.

A spokesman for West Mercia Police said: "An adult male rider of a motorcycle has been declared dead at the scene by paramedic colleagues from the NHS."

The crash, between a silver saloon car and a black Suzuki motorbike, happened close to Rushmere Filling Station. Five fire crew were sent from Bridgnorth and Much Wenlock.

Police have called for any witnesses to the accident who have not yet come forward to contact them on 101.

Brewhouse date for The Empty Can

FOLK band The Empty Can will be playing in Lye tomorrow night (Friday). The band, who wrote the Black Country anthem, will be performing at the Sadler's Ales's Brewhouse and Bar in Station Drive at 9.30pm with songs from their new album Sonic Boom.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Muggers steal a £40k luxury watch

A LUXURY watch worth £40,000 was stolen from a man's wrist at gunpoint in a terrifying street robbery.

The 21-year-old victim was hit over the head with a hammer before being threatened with the weapon by two hooded men in Sedgley.

Detectives believe that others may have been involved in planning the attack.

The man had been given the Audemars Piguet watch as a birthday present. He was treated in hospital for minor cuts, bruising and swelling and released later the same day.

Two in hospital after car flips

A MAN suffered possible spinal injuries as a car ended up on its roof after smashing into a wall.

He was taken to hospital in Dudley along with another man following the crash in Grange Lane, Stourbridge on Friday at 10.25pm.

The car hit a wall and telegraph pole before flipping onto its roof. A tyre was ripped from one of its wheels and the vehicle suffered major damage.

Firefighters from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill helped get the men out of the car after the accident. They were taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

Drop-in sessions focus on fostering

A SERIES of drop-in sessions for people interested in finding out more about fostering are being run in Dudley, organised to coincide with Fostering Care Fortnight, which began on Monday.

An event takes place today (Thursday) at Zion Christian Centre in Halesowen from 10am to noon; on Monday at Silver Jubilee Park Healthy Hub in Coseley from 10am to 1pm and on Wednesday at Zion Christian Centre, Halesowen, from 6pm to 8pm.

Homes are to be built on former factory site

TWENTY-FOUR homes will be built on former industrial land in Nether-ton, after the scheme was given the go-ahead by Dudley Council planners.

Proposals for the Bradney Chain and Engineering Company site in Quarry Road have been approved. An existing house and disused industrial building will be knocked down to make way for the new homes. An officer's report said the 'positive' development would help housing growth and regeneration.

Northern Soul stars

ORIGINAL stars of Northern Soul will be performing at the Robin 2 venue in Bilston on August 28. Dean Parrish, who recorded Wigan Casino classic I'm On My Way, plus Tommy Hunt, Edwin Starr's brother Angelo Starr, and Lorraine Silver feature with Casino DJ Russ Winstanley.

Petition is calling to lift rat-run barricade

A PETITION signed by more than 600 people is calling for the removal of blockades from a road in Dudley that was being used as a rat-run.

Campaigners hope it will convince highways chiefs to reopen Blackacre Road, which has been shut since 2012. They say all the barriers have done is push traffic into surrounding streets.

The road was originally closed as part of a trial scheme costing £10,000 but the move became permanent. Two blocks of concrete block the route.

The measures were put in place following complaints the street was being used as a rat-run. More than 6,000 people a day were said to be using the street as a short cut to Duncan Edwards Way.

But people living in side roads and around Buffery Park have complained that all the changes did was shift the traffic to their streets.

Now a petition signed by hundreds calling on highways bosses to look again at the situation has been handed in to Dudley Council.

Phillip Wimet, of Selborne Road, said: "We have been going to local forums for four years trying to get them to revisit Blackacre Road. We are not for one minute saying we don't realise people cut through Blackacre Road, but our argument is they should try calming measures before putting a barricade in place. There have been numerous accidents."

Alan Lunt, a strategic director at the council, said: "There is no quick, easy fix to the issues at Blackacre Road."

Choral evening coming to church

SINGERS will be raising the roof of a Black Country church in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

Viva Musica will be hosting a concert in Stourbridge as part of Dementia Awareness Week on Saturday evening.

From Verdi to West Side Story, the evening will bring a wide repertoire of music from the choir and soloists.

The concert will also include a celebration of the works of William Shakespeare, marking the 400th anniversary of the Bard's death.

The Gala Evening of Songs and Sonnets will take place at St James Church in Wollaton, from 7pm.

Tickets cost £10 and are available by calling 0121 550 5581 or 01562 883480.

Replicas of Saxon treasure in display

REPLICAS of some of the impressive items from the Staffordshire Hoard, Anglo-Saxon treasure discovered in a field near Walsall, are coming to Haden Hill House, Cradley Heath, in an exhibition, June 4 to July 3.

Pervert driving instructor is jailed



Former driving instructor Gary Rolinson

A DRIVING instructor from Kingswinford is starting a four-year prison sentence after being convicted of sexually assaulting six male pupils.

Gary Rolinson, who ran the 500+ Driving School based in Kingswinford, was also ordered to register as a sex offender for life.

The 60-year-old preyed on six teenagers during driving lessons between 2012 and 2014.

Rolinson was found guilty of 13 offences of sexual assault and one of causing a person to engage in sexual activity after a 14-day trial at Wolver-

hampton Crown Court in January. He was sentenced last week.

The crimes involved six 17-year-old and 18-year-old men. He was first arrested in 2012 but it was two years later when West Midlands Police began contacting other pupils after a further complaint.

Speaking afterwards, Detective Inspector Sarah Booth, from West Midlands Police's Public Protection Unit, said: "Gary Rolinson was trusted to deliver a professional service but he betrayed everyone by using his respected position as a driving instruc-

tor for his own sexual gratification. These lads should have been excited as they came of age and got behind the wheel of a car for the first time, but instead they were left confused, intimidated or scared by Rolinson's behaviour.

"It took a lot of courage for them to speak out. Thanks to their bravery in coming forward and giving evidence at court a predatory sex offender has now been taken off the streets."

The driving instructor, who now lives in Llandrindod Wells, was sentenced at Warwick Crown Court.

'Cheated' school dinner ladies win £500k payout

SCHOOL dinner ladies have received a payout totalling half a million pounds after being 'cheated' out of money in an equal pay dispute with Dudley Council.

Forty women took action after finding out their colleagues had been awarded much more money when the council settled the original disputes.

Some staff received tens of thousands of pounds less than others who did the same job.

The women - who were mostly school catering managers or kitchen staff - lost out after their legal representatives advised them to take an offer on the table from Dudley Council. For some, this was as little as a few hundred pounds, an amount which was dwarfed by the huge payouts their co-workers then received.

Claims for as much as £90,000 were paid to those who opted to wait it out.

Workers left furious at the huge discrepancies decided to take action against the legal teams who initially advised them to take the comparatively minuscule amounts.

The representatives - who have not been named - decided to settle and a total of £510,000 will be paid to the 40 women who lost out.

The highest single award is understood to be around £30,000.

Life-changing

Angela Manley, a director of WH Law Solicitors, which secured the payout, said: "We are proud of what we have done for these ladies. We really felt for them, they felt they had been cheated in a way.

"It's difficult working alongside people who received bigger awards, life-changing sums."

Dudley Council became embroiled in an equal pay dispute with female workers in 2010 when it emerged men were being paid up to 130 per cent more in similar roles.

Some women accepted offers in 2010 but later learned they could have claimed thousands more when colleagues went to tribunal or used their own law firm to go against the council and got larger rewards.

Anna Garratt, 49, who worked for Dudley Council for 28 years and a ran a school kitchen until earlier this year, was among those to receive a payout. The mother-of-one from Pen-snett said: "When we found out what other people were getting I was thinking 'hold on a minute, we should be getting that'."

Shoppers reveal 'bucket list' goals



Compton Hospice staff Charlotte Lilley (top) and Vicki Wootton with the bucket list chalk board

FROM meeting Leonardo di Caprio to seeing Wolves win the FA Cup - shoppers in Wolverhampton and Dudley revealed their desires as part of a hospice campaign.

Staff from Compton Hospice took to the streets to encourage people to share their hopes and aspirations.

The move was part of a national death awareness campaign which aims to get people talking more

openly about death and their wishes for end of life.

Compton Hospice spokeswoman Grace Lee was one of those in Wolverhampton's Queen Square asking people what they would put on their 'bucket list', things to do before they die.

She said: "There was a huge variety. One young lad wanted to see Wolves win the FA Cup, and lots of people wanted to travel the world.

"Meeting favourite celebrities was a big one. In Dudley, we had someone wanting to go on a safari and another who said she wanted to make her son happy."

"Hospices often have an unfair reputation for being all about doom and gloom, and about it being the end. But we are always asking our patients what goals they want to achieve and if we can help them make it happen, we will."

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AFTER my item on pine martens chewing car electrical systems, a reader has been online and found an electronic gizmo which fits under the bonnet and is guaranteed to scare the little blighters off. Is there anything you can't buy on eBay?

AM I the only diesel-car driver feeling a little less guilty this week? There is something about half of Alberta going up in flames and filling the atmosphere with thousands of tons of smoke that puts our own emissions in context.

PAY attention. I am going to tell you some interesting facts about yourself. You have a tendency to be self-critical. You have a great need for other people to like and admire you. You pride yourself on being an independent thinker. You don't accept other people's statements without satisfactory proof. You have found it unwise to be too frank in revealing yourself to others. Spot on? Of course I am. All the above statements apply to you, because they apply to everyone. They are known as Barnum statements, after the great American showman and master of hoaxes, P T Barnum. And they are the bedrock of every "psychic" act you'll ever see, from seances to fortune-telling and the predictions of the late, great astrologer Jonathan Cainer.



IT is a tragedy that Cainer, 58, died so young, apparently of a heart attack. His passing earlier this month has unleashed a torrent of testimonies to the alleged accuracy of his star-gazing. For a start, it is widely claimed that he predicted his own death. But he didn't. His last column before he died simply read: "We're not here for long. So make the most of every moment." That's a Barnum statement.

DAVID Cameron says if we leave the EU we risk war because terrible things happen whenever Britain turns its back on Europe. Really? We must be working from different history books. I seem to recall from O-level history that it was the 1839 Treaty of London and the 1904 Entente Cordiale that committed Britain to entering the First World War instead of watching from the sidelines. You could argue that the worst conflict this country has ever endured was the direct result not of turning our back on Europe but of getting too involved with it.

MY personal foreign policy can be summed up in four words. Make friends with Russia.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Car breaker given sentence reduction

A CROOKED car breaker from Stourbridge, who was part of a gang which dismantled cars worth £240,000 and sold the parts on eBay, has seen his jail term slashed.

Nicholas David Ryall, aged 50, of Redlake Road, was jailed for three years at Birmingham Crown Court on July 10 after he admitted conspiracy to handle stolen motor vehicles.

Ryall and three others – Luke Arnold, aged 30, Robert Wood, 25, and Duncan Taylor, 46 – were involved in a plot to handle and dismantle cars, including high-end BMWs.

The luxury motors were stripped between May 2012 and May 2014 at rented workshops in Cradley Heath and Bromsgrove.

The gang sold the spare parts on eBay and Mrs Justice Cox told London's Appeal Court it was 'clearly a

large-scale professional conspiracy'. Arnold, of no fixed abode, was handed a sentence of four years and eight months for his part in the plot. Wood, of Dawlish Road, Selly Oak, and Taylor, of Station Road, Blackwell, Bromsgrove, each got three and a half years.

Ryall's lawyers argued his jail term was far too harsh. They pointed to his previous good character and that

he had only been involved in the conspiracy from February to May 2014.

"We see some force in these submissions," said Mrs Justice Cox, who was sitting with Judge Nicholas Hilliard QC. "There was a marked distinction between the limited role of Ryall and that played by his co-accused." Ruling his jail term 'excessive', the judge reduced it to two years and three months.

Stations are now facing fewer stops suggestion

Fewer stops at 'intermediate' railway stations like Sandwell & Dudley have been proposed by the Government as a possible solution to reducing journey times.

The proposal – included in a 47-page consultation document on the future of the InterCity West Coast franchise – is likely to worry passengers in the Black Country.

The franchise is currently operated by Virgin Trains with around 300 train services per day, primarily on the West Coast Main Line between London, Birmingham, Manchester, and Scotland.

The document states: "While some services are highly used in the peak, or just outside of peak hours, there are times of the day where the level of service might not reflect the level of demand at stations.

"In these cases we are interested in understanding whether there may be opportunities to adjust the level of service at stations which might enable wider benefits to be delivered elsewhere.

"For example, reducing the number of stops required at intermediate stations could enable reductions in the overall journey time to Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool or Glasgow or for potential new journeys to be offered."

Independent campaigning group, Railfuture, said it was generally against any measure which reduced the amount of stops on long-distance services.

Firecrew gear is stolen at blaze

VITAL pieces of equipment were stolen from firefighters as they tackled a fire in Netherton last Monday night.

Crews from Dudley, Haden Cross and West Bromwich were called to a shed and garden blaze after the burning of carpets got out of hand.

While they were tackling the flames, thieves stole a hydrant key and bar, which is used to open fire hydrants to access water. Three fire hydrants in the Netherton area were later found to have been tampered with.

Watch Commander Justin Bayliss, of Haden Cros, said: "These keys are crucial to getting water quickly to the scene of a fire. They're used at our bigger incidents where our fire engines might not have enough water. We're disappointed that someone has taken something so important."

Road delays expected during work on cables

MOTORISTS are being warned they will face delays until Monday as two-way traffic controls will be in place on a busy road in Tipton.

BT are repairing power cables on Sedgley Road East, opposite the junction of Cleton Street.

Carer claimed £15k in disability benefits

By David Callaghan

A WOMAN claimed nearly £15,000 in disability benefits while continuing to carry out her 'very physical' job as a carer, a court heard.

Pamela Green, aged 47, claimed she was barely able to walk and needed assistance but she failed to tell the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) her health had improved, magistrates were told.

Between September 2011 and June 2015 she worked as a carer with disabled people while herself claiming disability living allowance.

Green, of Field Road, Dudley, admitted dishonestly failing to notify change of circumstances affecting entitlement to social security benefit when she appeared before Dudley magistrates on May 6.

Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said: "During this period of nearly four years, Mrs Green had been working as a community carer, which I would assume is a very physical job.

"Her managers weren't aware of any health problems she had, and no issues were disclosed to them during Mrs Green's employment.

Problems

"She had failed to notify the DWP in her change of health and circumstances which ultimately would affect entitlement to her disability living allowance."

Gerry Vahey, defending, said: "Mrs Green's health has improved, although she still does have problems. She admits the DWP should have been informed in her change in health and circumstances and has already reached an agreement to pay the money owed, with £30 a month paid back over the last two months.

"There will be a need for further payments to be reviewed and I would like to advise the court that Mrs Green already has a new job in the pipeline."

Green will appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 3 for sentencing and a Proceeds of Crime hearing.

Blind Dave backs Black Country Run



Dave Heeley and his guide dog Seamus with The Big Pet Store owner Mike Burke and run organiser Alan Bowler

ORGANISERS of the annual Black Country Run in Halesowen hope that the event will continue to grow – after raising more than £75,000 in four years.

This year's run is on July 3 and has enjoyed some high profile support, including from multiple marathon runner Blind Dave Heeley, who is a regular participant.

Entries for the run, which is on the roads of Halesowen, have increased each year from 400 in 2012 to more than 1,100 last year. A 10km road race and 5km fun run will be held on the day.

This summer's event, again organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, has been supported by three major sponsors – The Big Pet Store in Halesowen, CSCM in Stourbridge and Halesowen-based mFortune.

"We're grateful to our sponsors as we wouldn't be able to host the run without them," said organiser Alan Bowler. "The support of Blind Dave is also very much appreciated, he's quite a character. Last year he came dressed as Shrek with his two fellow runners – this year they're considering the three blind mice."

The 10km race begins at 9am with the 5km fun run beginning at 11am. Both start where Birmingham Street meets with Rumbow before heading out for laps of the town.

Mr Bowler added: "We've been growing year on year and hopefully it continues. The more entrants the better so I encourage people to get registered!"

See www.theblackcountryroadrun.com for details.

High Street, Brierley Hill (on the corner)

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Meeting to discuss high rise issues

TENANTS who live in high rise block have been invited to discuss issues relating to their estates.

Council bosses said that the High Rise Living Forum, meets on a regular basis to discuss issues. It is open to any tenant or leaseholder living in one of Dudley Council's high rise flats.

The next meeting is set for Tuesday at Saltwells Education Centre in Netherton, from 7pm to 8.30pm.

Anyone who wants further information about the forum, or who wants to attend the meeting, should call (01384) 815168.

Pub beer garden marquee blocked

A PUB in Brierley Hill has been blocked from putting up a marquee in its beer garden after planners ruled noise generated from people using it would cause a nuisance to nearby homes.

The Red Lion, in Brettell Lane, has had its application to install the marquee, as well as a decked seating area, refused by Dudley Council.

Planning officers said the changes would have a 'detrimental impact' on the surrounding area as there would likely be an 'unacceptable level of noise and disturbance'.

Author talks about Shropshire garden

AN AUTHOR who transformed an historic mansion house garden in Shropshire will be giving a talk on Tuesday in Stourbridge.

Katherine Swift, who wrote The Morville House & The Morville Years, will be speaking about her dower house garden in the grounds of Morville Hall, near Bridgnorth.

The talk at Stourbridge Library starts at 6pm. Tickets cost £3 and can be booked by calling (01384) 812945.

Old snooker hall could become a music venue

PLANS to turn a snooker hall in Lye into a live music venue have been put forward to Dudley Council.

If the proposal is approved, the currently empty site on Dudley Road would see a two-storey front extension, to include a new entrance canopy area and changes to include a new roof, doors, windows and roller shutter door.

There have been five objections to the plans, which raise concerns about potential disturbance to neighbours.

Soul fans keep faith

A NIGHT of northern soul and Motown music is being held in Brierley Hill Civic Hall this weekend featuring DJs Hitsville Chalky and Little Scotty, among others. The Goldsoul Night on Saturday will run from 8pm to 1am. Ticket are £7.50 in advance or £10 on the door. Call 0870 320 7000

Crackdown as anglers reeled in by agency

A CRACKDOWN on illegal fishing saw 23 anglers who were flouting the law reeled in by Environment Agency officers.

Agency staff were out in force across the West Midlands over a bank holiday weekend in a bid to catch anglers who were fishing without a rod licence.

Over the three-day weekend enforcement officers found 396 anglers fishing legally at locations across the region but they also caught 23 fishing without a valid licence.

Mick Hyde, environmental crime and fisheries enforcement team leader said: "The vast majority of anglers who fish legally deserve to see those who flout the law brought to account."

Four anglers who were caught fishing without a licence in the autumn were fined at Walsall magistrates court.

David Flores, from Erdington, was ordered to pay a £220 fine, £127 in costs and a £22 victim surcharge after being caught fishing at Foxhills Fishery despite not having a licence. Another Birmingham man, John Gallows, was caught on the same day at Foxhills Fishery and ordered to pay the same amount.

James Harrop, of West Bromwich, was caught without a licence at Moorcroft Wood Pool and ordered to pay a £147 fine, £127 in costs and a £20 victim surcharge. Walsall resident David Perry was fined £84, ordered to pay costs of £127 and a victim surcharge of £20 for exceeding the number of permitted lines at Sneyd Reservoir.

Theatre company in open audition

STOURBRIDGE Theatre Company is holding open auditions for its latest production.

It will be staging Dead Ringer by Charles Ross, which has a cast of six men and two women over the age of 25, in November.

Auditions will be held tonight (Thursday) at St Joseph's School in Norton at 7.30pm. For further information call director Sandra Griswold on (01384) 287251.

The group is always on the lookout for new members.

Members usually rehearse for about three months prior to a production, from 7.30-10pm every Monday and Thursday.

To find out more visit stourbridgetheatre.co.uk website.

Dog show is part of summer fair

AGE Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen is organising a dog show as part of its annual summer fair being held in the grounds of Mary Stevens Day Centre, Hagley Road, Stourbridge, on June 25, from 10am to 3.30pm.

Old glasses help people in Sri Lanka



Anglee Hunjan and Michaela Richards

UNWANTED pairs of glasses donated to the Beacon Centre in Sedgley have been sent to Sri Lanka as part of a project to help people overseas struggling with sight loss.

Around 50 people have so far benefited from the scheme which sees donated spectacles from the Black Country sent to Sri Lanka to be matched with people suffering from a range of eye conditions and given to them free.

The public can donate their glasses either directly at the Beacon Centre, to Beacon Opticians Plus or at Bea-

con shops. They are then sent to the Senehasa Foundation, a charity run by Buddhist monks.

An optician checks them for their prescriptions before donating them to people in the remote Kurunegala region. The Beacon Centre has also helped by donating magnifiers and offering advice.

Positive

Rebecca Foley, a patron of the Senehasa Foundation, said the glasses made a tremendous positive impact in enhancing the daily lives of people

with visual impairments in the Far Eastern country. Beacon Centre head of enterprise operations Tracey Ford thanked all those who have donated glasses so far and urged people to continue to hand in their old specs.

Ms Foley has also set up a crowdfunding page to raise cash to buy equipment such as Velcro strips and talking clocks.

Anyone who has an old pair of glasses they no longer need can call John Walters at the centre on 01902 880 111 or donate via Beacon shops in the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Government rethink on academies is welcomed

THE Government climbdown over plans to force all schools to become academies has been welcomed in Dudley with leaders saying schools should be free to choose.

The U-turn by Education Secretary Nicky Morgan came after a backlash by unions, councils and some Tory MPs over the proposal to take all schools out of local authority control by 2022. The Government announced initial plans in its Budget to force 17,000 schools in England out of the control of local education authorities.

But Andrew Burns, principal of Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath, said each school should be free to choose - despite his school being part of an academy trust.

He said: "I am pleased that they have used common sense. It may be right for some schools but not others."

"Each school should be free to choose what they wish to do and what feels proper for them and their learning choices."

"We are part of an academy trust ourselves and we feel that works well for us and we benefit from it. But that does not mean its necessarily correct for everyone."

Sponsored

In January 2012, the school became an academy sponsored by Ormiston Academies Trust.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin also welcomed the climbdown. The Labour MP said: "It is one thing if parents and people running a school want it to become an academy but there's no evidence that a dogmatic one-size-fits-all policy that forced all schools to become academies would have transformed standards, which should be the top priority."

"The best way to improve school standards is to invest in leadership, teacher recruitment and teacher training."

Two-thirds of secondary schools have already converted but 15,000 schools do not currently have academy status. Academies are independently run but state-funded schools, overseen by a not-for-profit business, known as an academy trust, and are often part of a chain.

The Department for Education still insists that a large number of schools will choose to convert to academies but the plan is now an 'aspiration' rather than compulsory.

Nicky Morgan said: "Making every school an academy is the best way to ensure every child, regardless of birth or background, has access to a world-class education"



Singer Sally Barker reached the final of BBC TV's The Voice in 2014 after the beauty of her voice made judge Tom Jones tearful

Finalist from The Voice in pub gig

A FINALIST from BBC TV talent show The Voice is singing at a Stourbridge pub. Sally Barker finished in joint second place during the 2014 competition after her emotional performances reduced judge Tom Jones to tears.

The widowed Leicestershire mother-of-two had put her music career on hold to look after her two children. She had been a member of female folk group The Poozies during the 1990s.

Sally has recorded six solo albums, covering folk, blues and jazz, and has supported artists including Bob Dylan and Robert Plant.

Last year she toured as singer with the surviving members of legendary folk group Fotheringay, stepping into the shoes of the late Sandy Denny.

She will perform at Katie Fitzgerald's in Envile Street, Stourbridge, on Thursday, May 26, at 8pm. Tickets cost £12. Call the box office on 01384 374410 or visit wegotickets.com website.

The following weekend, May 27 to 29, is the pub's own Katiesfest, featuring around 20 artists.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Trams are 20s answer to a 90s problem

DAVID Cameron has caused a diplomatic stir for saying Nigeria and Afghanistan are "fantastically corrupt".

I'm sure he's right. But remind me, how many millions of taxpayers' money does the UK give to these countries? One set of figures suggests an eye-watering £280 million a year, which seems rather foolish when the Government seems to have little control over where it is going. Fantastically foolish, in fact.

□□□

ABOUT 76,000 fans had to be evacuated from Old Trafford on Sunday after a suspected bomb device was found in a toilet.

Thankfully, there was no explosive and the suspicious package turned out to be nothing more than a training device.

Still, some of the fans are furious at the incompetence, and who can blame them? For the Bournemouth supporters, it meant a wasted trip from the south coast. And for United fans, it meant another journey from the Home Counties.

□□□

IT looks like Dudley will be retaining its status as Britain's largest town or city without a rail link after the council dropped plans for a light shuttle service from Dudley Port station. A shame they couldn't tell us before the local elections, but there you go.

Yet again, it seems to be talk about extending the Midland Metro which has thrown a spanner in the works. Just like it was in the mid-1990s, when the council shelved proposals for the return of a proper railway link to the town, in favour of this elusive tram scheme.

In the meantime, sites along the proposed Metro route have been blighted with numerous attempts at regeneration hindered by the need to keep the route clear. Forgive my scepticism, but heavy electric trams are a 1920s solution to a 1990s transport problem.

The Metro scheme will cost £300 million, which will probably never materialise. It will also cause years of disruption to the Black Country road system, and affect many homes and businesses along the way. And by the time it sees the light of day, it will probably be about as up-to-date as a Sandie Shaw LP.

I very much doubt we will ever see the Midland Metro link from Wednesbury to Dudley, and frankly, I'm not sure I want to. I fear the main beneficiaries will not be the struggling town centres of the Black Country, but the areas that have already done pretty well out of regeneration policy.

The light shuttle service would have cost a fraction of the Metro, and could have been up and running within three years. A real missed opportunity.



A damaged road on A458 near Stourton



Potholes in Hunslet Road, Burntwood



A Highways Agency worker repairs a huge pothole

Problem is driving us motorists potty

Potholes are causing misery on the roads every single day and land car owners with large bills, as ROB COLLEDGE reports

THE sudden jolt, crunch of crumbling tarmac, and the thud of your car's suspension clattering – potholes cause misery on the roads every single day.

There are an incredible 31,000 potholes awaiting repair on Britain's roads across nearly 12,000 miles of roads.

And it is estimated they cause as many as one in 10 mechanical failures on our roads, costing motorists an estimated £730 million every year.

The national outrage at potholes has even led to the creation of a National Pothole Day by the website Street Repairs which takes place on January 15.

Freezing

The Government says it is investing more than ever to tackle the state of our roads – creating the first ever pothole fund. This year the Black Country and Staffordshire will get £1.5m to fill potholes. However, this has been described as a 'drop in the ocean' by council bosses.

Britain's climate makes it especially susceptible to potholes caused by water expanding as it freezes before melting. The road network has benefited from a record mild winter but the start to 2016 was not so welcoming.

Temperatures plummeted, bringing freezing conditions across the country.

Authorities are currently pay out more than £30 million in compensation claims due to poor roads. And new research reveals that seven in 10 experienced drivers think roads have got noticeably worse over the years they have been driving, with four out of five believing potholes and cracks are not fixed as quickly as they used to be.

A survey of nearly 10,000 over-50s by Saga Car Insurance found the majority of older mo-



Severe weather has taken its toll on roads

torists thought poor maintenance meant driving conditions had got worse in recent years.

Just one in 10 said road conditions had improved in their lifetime.

Sue Green, head of car insurance at Saga, said: "Around nine out of 10 over-50s drive regularly so it's not surprising they have great insight about the state of the UK's roads. People shouldn't have to play Russian roulette with their suspension."

As well as potentially damaging cars, potholes can be dangerous and even deadly for cyclists and motorcyclists.

In January, a mother-of-three died after hitting a pothole in the road which was due to be repaired by a council. Triathlete Kate Vanloo, 52, rode into the water-filled hole in Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwickshire, and was struck by a car after being thrown into the road.

The road was reportedly due to have been

resurfaced before Christmas but the work was postponed. The pothole had been filled within 48 hours of the tragedy.

The Chancellor George Osborne announced a £250m pothole fund in his autumn statement as part of a package of measures to improve the country's creaking transport system.

Britain has more than 31,000 potholes awaiting repair on nearly 12,000 miles of roads, according to a report published in November.

The blighted roads would cover the distance from London to Wellington in New Zealand – roughly half way round the Earth.

A typical pothole measured 0.4 square metres and the average repair bill to cars for damage was £267, the research by insurer LV found.

The number of unfilled potholes could be higher, as only two-thirds of all councils re-

sponded to the insurer's Freedom of Information requests.

The research found drivers in the North East were most likely to suffer damage to their vehicles because of potholes, with 19 per cent having been affected, followed by 18 per cent of those in the West Midlands and 17 per cent in London.

In Wolverhampton, the council repairs more than 3,000 potholes every year. During 2014, the city council was awarded a cash windfall of £500,000 to fix thousands of potholes as part of a total £6.6m potholes cashpot shared with other Black Country and Staffordshire authorities.

Prime Minister David Cameron even singled Wolverhampton out for praise. "Wolverhampton has shown it is one of the leading areas in the country in its determination to beat potholes and is receiving extra cash as a result," he said.

But compensation payments to damaged cars remain a big pressure on the public purse. More than £1m has been paid out to drivers in Sandwell for damage caused to their cars by potholes.

Ravaged

Around 200 claims from motorists were settled by Sandwell Council between 2011 and 2015. Last year, council workmen filled in more than 2,000 holes on the borough's ravaged roads.

Potholes cost taxpayers in Staffordshire more than £58,000 in compensation for damaged cars in a single year.

Staffordshire was ranked the 15th worst in the country for cars damaged by potholes after it was revealed a total of 875 claims were made in 2013-14, resulting in a pay-out of £58,314. However, the figures, released by the RAC Foundation, also showed this amount is significantly lower than the compensation released in 2012-13, which saw £94,866 paid out by Staffordshire County Council.

In Dudley, there were 185 successful claims from motorists whose vehicles were damaged by potholes across the borough between October 1, 2012, to October 1, 2015.

The figures, revealed by a Freedom of Information request, show the authority has had to shell out £40,322 in that period.

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Obama advice motivated by TTIP deal

OBAMA came here for one reason only. That was to try to frighten the British voters to vote Remain, so that he can sign up the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement (TTIP) with the EU. They know that a Brexit would be a huge knock to the TTIP so they will try anything to keep us in line.

Obama is a puppet to big business. The TTIP is a trade agreement that in effect gives power to big business to allow these corporations to privatise public services, with the cherry in the cake being the NHS.

Spoiling ballot was only way to protest

I WOULD like to take issue with Mark Andrews (In My View, The Chronicle, May 12) and his view last week that: 'That there are nearly 12,000 people who are so sad that they go to the trouble of visiting the polling station for no other reason than to deliberately spoil their paper in some juvenile form of protest.'

I am one of those people and I am certainly no juvenile.

It may have escaped Mr Andrews' attention but most of us were also voting for our local councillors.

However, spoiling our papers for the election of another useless tier of management at a grotesque cost with a police force facing horrendous cuts is the only form of peaceful protest we have.

We were, after all, never asked if we wanted a Police and Crime Commissioner in the first place.

PETER BROWN
Wollaston

They will also have the right to sue our Government if they think they are holding back their future profits. For example, if a company wanted to start fracking in West Park and the Government stopped it, the company could sue for loss of future profits.

A similar deal, the North American Free Trade Agreement, has seen Lone Pine Resources suing the Canadian Government for 250 million dollars because they temporarily stopped them fracking in Quebec.

B K WILLIAMS
Tipton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Brits getting hung up on sovereignty

ALMOST every time some anti EU person writes or utters their rehearsed spiel, they mention sovereignty.

May I ask them this question? Do the French or the Germans keep moaning about sovereignty?

Do you hear vast numbers in Spain or Italy mention it? What makes us British so different that we think that we are God's own race unable to do anything with our European neighbours unless we worry about sovereignty?

Do the great masses of British people really believe that we would be better off pulling out of Europe, abandoning human rights, and going cap-in-hand around the nations of the world seeking trade deals? Have they never thought

that the people who want us to withdraw from the EU might have hidden agendas? Read your history and see how we used to be treated before human rights came into being and don't rely on readymade philosophies for your opinion. As regards President Obama 'telling' us how to vote, he didn't! He merely advised us.

There is a difference. And might I remind some readers and critic that USA stands for United States of America. They were all once individual states who formed a solid alliance. So what is the difference between them and the EU? We will impoverish ourselves by leaving the EU.

C K MILLWARD
Tipton

Act or it will Bee too late

NOT sure if your readers are aware but the Government is planning to lift certain restrictions on pesticide sales. This will seriously impact the bee population.

Strange as it sounds, the disappearing bee population the world over is a grave source of concern for experts and for us all as bees are the main pollinator for the world's crops.

At the risk of sounding dramatic, it is no exaggeration to say that the survival of civilization is at stake.

I would like to ask the readers to pressurise their representatives in Parliament and elsewhere to make sure that the restrictions on pesticides remain and are enforced.

RICHARD CLEMENTS
Quinton

Leave dogs in the shade

I RECENTLY visited Ashwood car boot sale and I was amazed and disgusted by how many people were there accompanied by their dog.

The hottest day of the year and these dogs were being dragged around the field whilst their owners stopped at every stall.

The poor dogs were panting like mad and desperate for a drink and some shade. Why, oh why, do these people bring their dogs to a car boot sale?

Surely the dog would be much happier at home in the cool.

Please readers think twice about taking your dogs out in this hot weather – it simply is not good for them.

J GREENHALL
Kingswinford

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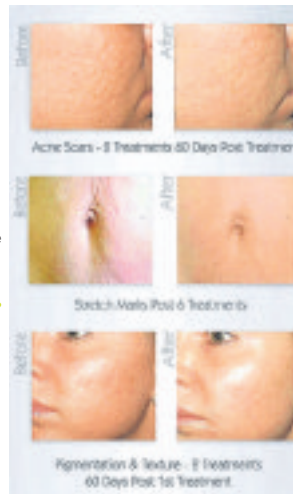
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Miles Hunt from the Wonder Stuff seen in full flow in the band's heyday



The Mighty Lemon Drops performing in 1986



Graham Crabb of Pop Will Eat Itself, performing at the club in December 1986



Pop Will Eat Itself, one of the big Midland bands



The club was renowned for its low mirrored ceiling

Exhibition will Click with indie fans hoping to rekindle music memories

UNSEEN photographs of Black Country rock bands have been revealed as part of an exhibition documenting the music scene in the 1980's.

The exhibition, called 'Is There Anyone Out There?', is being held at Birmingham City University's Parkside Gallery and explores the history of the city's 'The Click Club', which was located on Broad Street.

There will be a collection of original photographs, film footage, posters, audio recordings and eyewitness accounts exploring different bands that performed there.

Among them will be Black Country bands 'Pop Will Eat Itself' and 'Ned's Atomic Dustbin', which both formed in Stourbridge.

Pop Will Eat Itself formed in 1986 and achieved Top 40 hits with 'Can U Dig It?' and 'Wise Up! Sucker' from their album, 'This Is the Day...This Is the Hour...This

MEMORY LANE

Report by Jamie Brassington

Is This! Ned's Atomic Dustbin formed the following year.

In April 1991 they released their album 'God Fodder', which reached number 4 in the UK top 40 albums chart.

Other bands featuring in the exhibition include Blur, Primal Scream and Bjork.

Showcased

The exhibition draws upon the personal archive of music promoter and photographer Dave Travis - where thousands of photographs taken at the club between 1986 and 1990 will be showcased.

It marks 30 years since the club, located at 'Burberries on the Street' nightclub on Broad Street, opened.

Travis said: "Steve Coxon and I started The Click Club out of frustration at having to travel all over the Midlands to see the

bands that we liked or that we were reviewing for the music press.

"We thought that it would be an ideal situation if we stayed where we were and the bands came to us. Birmingham was very different in the 1980s; most of the clubs stipulated a 'smart dress' policy and as a result the nights I and my friends could go to were limited.

"The Click Club operated a 'no smart dress' policy although it was always more of an attitude restriction."

The club showcased a wide variety of acts during its lifetime which reflected the varied culture of indie music such as Primal Scream, We've Got a Fuzzbox and We're Gonna Use It, and The Mighty Lemon Drops.

It also supported the emergence of bands from the area such as The Wonder Stuff and Ocean Colour Scene.

The material in the exhibition is built up from donations of people who attended the event and loaned artefacts.

The title of the exhibition comes from the

single Is There Anyone Out There? from Birmingham band Mighty Mighty that was released in 1986.

Paul Long, Professor of Media and Cultural History at the University said: "The lovelorn lyric evokes the romantic angst of youth but also poses a question for the curators of this exhibition: Who is out there who might know about the Click Club and is anyone else interested in this subject?"

"We are interested in finding out how people engage with the exhibition and welcome feedback from from those who were part of this community as well the wider public of Birmingham and beyond.

"We want to know: What is the value of this material?"

"What does it tell us beyond confirming the memories of the few individuals it concerned, and does such material have wider importance and contributions to make for our understanding of the past?"

The exhibition is free to attend and runs until Friday, May 27, at Birmingham City University's Parkside Gallery.

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Volunteers are key to success of charity centre



Volunteers gather to cut the celebration cake as Barnardo's Donation Centre in Brierley Hill is a year old this month

FUNDRAISERS are celebrating the success of a charity shop which has received more than a thousand bags of donations since its opening a year ago.

Barnardo's opened a special donation centre in Brierley Hill. Customers can browse for a bargain at the front of the store but it also acts as a hub for the distribution of goods to other shops.

There are large bays at the back of the store at The Moor Centre, in High Street, where volunteers sort stock.

The Brierley Hill hub has received 1,200 bags of clothes, books, toys, games and accessories since opening, which has been made possible by 6,000 hours of support from hardworking volunteers.

Cake

To celebrate its first anniversary this month, the team gathered together to cut a specially-decorated cake with a large number one.

Barnardo's shop manager Carole Hughes said: "We wanted to arrange a special thank-you for everyone who has worked so hard and achieved so much during our first year of trading."

"We have an amazing team of 19 volunteers, aged from 14 to 66-years-old, who give anything from four to 24 hours of their own time each week in order to support the charity."

She added: "Some were here on work experience and decided to stay with us afterwards, others simply wanted to get out of the house or gain more confidence."

"Some even use it as an opportunity to improve their English language skills."

The donation centre is open from Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5.30pm and also on Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

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Reserve squadron get royal seal of approval



The Royal Yeomanry are presented with cavalry standard and colours by Princess Alexandra. Picture: Mark Larnier RY/MOD

MEMBERS of an Army Reserve squadron from Dudley received the royal seal of approval at Buckingham Palace.

The Royal Yeomanry were formally presented with their cavalry standard and colours, known as a guidon, by their Royal Honorary Colonel – Princess Alexandra.

Warrant officer Jonathan Astley attended and described the event as 'absolutely amazing'. "I think the beauty of the Army Reserve is that the experiences you get are so varied," he said.

"It can be marching down the street, training in some far flung place while a lot of the guys have done active service. It is one of those things that the more you put in the more you get out. "I've been involved since 1989 and have just been lucky to hang in there, stay useful and give something back."

Battle

On Saturday, May 7, The Royal Yeomanry were presented their new regimental guidon at Buckingham Palace. This replaces the individual Squadron Guidons with a single regimental version and includes the Battle Honour from Iraq 2003, which they earned as the

only formed Reserve Unit to serve in theatre at that time.

Also included are battle honours from the Boer War, the First World War and Second World War where the regiment's forebears fought with distinction.

The Royal Yeomanry is made up of squadrons based in Dudley, Telford, Leicester, Nottingham, Croydon, Fulham and the Royal Yeomanry Band based in London. Major Adam Tyler, the officer commanding the Royal Yeomanry B Squadron, said: "This was a unique honour for our regiment and I am really proud of all the soldiers from B Squadron."

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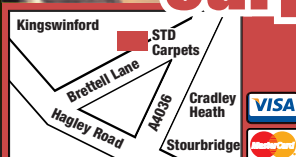
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Newsagent closes after 148 years in business



Cynthia Burgin at Burgin Newsagents in Dudley, one of the oldest family run newagents in the country

'WE'VE run out of Burgins.'
The words of a Dudley newsagent who has had to close her family business after nearly 150 years in the same premises.
Burgin Newsagents has occupied the same spot in Dudley's Wolverhampton Street since 1868.
When the shop opened William Gladstone was Prime Minister and Britain was fighting the Zulu Wars.
But current Burgin in charge - 85-year-old Cynthia - is retiring on health grounds and, with no family members to pass the business onto,

the shutters have been pulled down for the final time.
In Victorian times John Burgin moved from Kidderminster to set up a bookselling agency at the former cottage in Dudley. A few years later it became Burgin Newsagents.
His grandson, also named John, ran the shop with wife Cynthia until he died five years ago.
Mrs Burgin said: "There's no one who can take over from me and keep it going which is sad. We've run out of Burgins. I've kept trying to carry on because we've had so many good times."



Burgin Newsagents pictured in 1908

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Fundraising will pack a punch for cancer charity

A FUNDRAISING Cradley gym boss is once again gearing up to raise money for charity as he prepares to enter the boxing ring for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Two years ago, Wayne Scott-Fox, aged 35, from Tipton, started fundraising for various causes.

One of his challenges involved learning to box and he raised more than £2,000 for ward 15 of Birmingham Children's Hospital. He went on to dye his hair blue for a boy suffering from cerebral palsy and raised £1,224 for his family to take him on his first ever holiday.

Turning his attention to the problem of homeless people in Wolverhampton, Wayne handed out blankets, boots and warm clothing during the winter period.

Then only two weeks ago he boxed in aid of Sedgley's Rosie Byrne, who

has lymphoblastic leukaemia, raising £1,600.

Now along with professional boxer Les Byfield and white collar fighter Lee Jeavons, his next major event will be on August 27 at The Arena on Hagley Road, Stourbridge, where he will be boxing for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Heart

Wayne, owner of not-for-profit gym Golden Gloves School of Boxing & Fitness in Cradley, said: "This is an event that is very close to my heart."

"My mother died of cancer, so it's something I've always looked to raise money and awareness for."

Tickets cost £20 for the event, with ringside tables at £350. Entry is at 6pm, with the fights starting at 7pm.



Boxing for charity – from left, Black Country fighters Les Byfield, Wayne Scott-Fox and Lee Jeavons

Police reject calls for CCTV cameras

POLICE have dismissed calls for CCTV cameras in an area of Halesowen that residents say is blighted by drug crime and vandalism.

Halesowen North councillor Stuart Henley has been pressing for cameras in Shell Corner in a bid to cut crime. But police say that crime levels in the area are low, so surveillance is not needed.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "There has been no knife offences and only one serious attack in 18 months. There is no evidence to support that it is a hot-spot for crime and for CCTV to be put in place."

The news will come as a blow to people in the area who had highlighted incidents such as an attack on a blind man in Belgrave Road on February 1. The 54-year-old victim was being helped into a car when a man squirted a liquid into his eyes that caused a burning sensation.

Councillor Henley said: "We have had problems with drugs and anti-social behaviour on and off for many years and I think it's right to have some sort of surveillance to catch people. With police cutbacks surely something like this would help and act as a deterrent."

Teenage driver in high-speed car chase

A TEENAGER led police on a high-speed chase across the Black Country, narrowly avoiding oncoming traffic while travelling at up to 80mph on busy roads.

Police dash-cam footage showed Josiah Johnson weaving in and out of traffic, moving onto the wrong side of the road, running red lights and travelling the wrong way around roundabouts in an attempt to evade capture.

The 18-year-old, who had previously been banned from driving, even rammed an unmarked police car which had tried to box him in. He was told he could have 'killed himself or someone else'.

Police followed Johnson's Volkswagen Bora for around 20 minutes between Cradley Heath and Blackheath, all within 30mph speed limits, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The car was spotted by officers on patrol in an unmarked vehicle at around 1.30pm on April 8 and was suspected of being involved in criminality, Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, told the court.

Escape

But as soon as they attempted to get the driver to pull over he put his foot down and tried to get away.

A pursuit ensued with Johnson speeding through red lights at 50mph and swapping sides of the road to avoid hitting other cars.

He was eventually brought to a halt by police but his escape attempt was not over. He then set off on foot but was caught a short

By Richard Guttridge

time later. Two other men who were in the car with him were never caught, the court was told.

After being shown the video of his driving by police he asked them if he could have a copy 'as a trophy', Judge Anjad Nawaz said.

Johnson, who was said to suffer from Asperger syndrome, was given a suspended sentence.

He told police that he had 'panicked' as he had recently bought the car and it was not insured.

Mr Phillips said it was fortunate schools were not open on the day.

He said: "He accepted in interview he could have killed himself or somebody else."

Johnson, of Copthall Road, Handsworth, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and possession of cannabis. He was given a 14-month custodial sentence, suspended for two years. He was also banned from driving for two years and ordered to complete 120 hours of unpaid work.

Concert cash for piano scholarships

HUNDREDS of pounds has been raised by musicians at a South Staffordshire village to help fund a scholarship scheme for talented young pianists.

More than 120 people attended a concert at St Peter's Church in Kinver where Kinver High School piano teacher Ayaki Davies performed with several students including Max Jukes, Alice Rumble, Imogen Parfett, Evie Louisa Jones and Isabella Loveridge. There was a guest performance by Stourbridge pianist Michael Jones.

The recital raised £700 to fund piano scholarships for two students at Kinver High School and sixth form and for the upkeep of the church.

Mrs Davies said: "The spring charity concert is extremely important, not only does the concert raise vital funds for supporting musical development, it also provides an opportunity for children to demonstrate – and learn – a love of classical music."



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Comic opens a drug recovery hub

CONTROVERSIAL comedian Russell Brand appeared in Birmingham recently to open a new drug recovery centre. The actor and campaigner was in Digbeth for the launch of Recovery Central last week. The centre was founded by Steve Dixon, who has beaten a 15-year addiction with alcohol and drugs to establish charity Changes UK. Funded by Public Health England, the 50,000 sq ft centre on Allcock Street features Birmingham's first dry bar. It will also feature social enterprises which have been started by people the charity has supported, including a gardening business, a building company, a state-of-the-art recording studio and a recovery radio station. Brand has become a campaigner battling drug addiction in recent years after his own struggles with addiction.

Man is jailed after police call uncovers £50k cannabis farm

POLICE got more than they bargained for when they responded to a report of a disturbance at a house – finding a £50,000 drug farm. Officers found over two kilos of dried cannabis worth up to £24,000 in street sales in the ground floor of the property while upstairs 36 plants – capable of producing a £26,000 crop – were being grown under a sophisticated hydroponic cultivation system on September 25 last year, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, explained: “They smelt cannabis as soon as they entered

and the occupant, Eamon Payne, admitted that he had a ‘grow on’. Upstairs there were fans, filters, ducting and high intensity lights in the upstairs room where the drug was being grown.” Payne, from Witherton Grove, Tipton, who had a previous conviction for allowing his premises to be used for cannabis production, had also by-passed the electricity and used £1,000 worth of free power. Police seized £860 cash which Payne accepted was from the proceeds of crime. Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, said: “The whole grow was not for him while the previous grow had been for somebody else. He had been promised the use of the equipment to produce

some for himself. He may well deserve to go to prison but since his arrest has made every possible effort to rectify the situation. He has repaid the loss to the electricity company.” Mr Woolhouse said that Payne had been blighted by a drug problem and had started to have mental health issues. “He now needs medication for depression. His carpentry business collapsed, it became more of a struggle to finance his addiction and his depression spiralled downwards.” Payne pleaded guilty to producing cannabis and abstracting electricity and was jailed for 18 months.

Students tune up for Mayfly

MUSIC, dance and drama students at Halesowen College hold their annual festival – Mayfly – tomorrow (Friday) when there will be three stages filled with music, drama, stand-up comedy and dance. The afternoon is invitation only but the evening entertainment is from 5.30pm until 10pm and tickets are priced £4.50 if bought in advance and £5 on the door (under-12s £3). The event is being held at Old Halesonians Rugby Club, Wassell Grove. Steve McCarthy, organiser and music lecturer at Halesowen College, said: “We have a feast of entertainment planned for this year’s Mayfly and it will be bigger and better than ever. This will be a great opportunity for prospective students to see our work in action.” Contact Steve on 0121 602 7777.

Former MP backing Brexit



Former Conservative MP Chris Kelly with the huge pro-Brexit poster beside the M5 A FORMER Black Country MP who defied David Cameron by rebelling in a Commons vote over European Union powers has unveiled a giant ‘Vote Leave’ poster at a motorway junction. Chris Kelly, who represented Dudley South for the Tories between 2010 and 2015, has put the huge anti-Europe banner up at Junction 1 of the M5 motorway in West Bromwich. Mr Kelly quit at last year’s General Election to return to his family’s multi-million pound business, Keltruck. A passionate Eurosceptic, Mr Kelly regularly voted for an EU referendum during his time in the Commons and once defied the party whip by voting against ceding powers

Dudley North MP is supporting the BBC

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin says the BBC is being ‘undermined by its competitors’ and ‘attacked by the hard right of the Conservative Party’. Proposals for the charter renewal have been revealed, with Culture Secretary John Whittingdale saying the corporation must focus on ‘distinctive content’. Viewers would also need to pay to use the internet and smart TV catch-up service the iPlayer under the changes. But Labour MP Mr Austin said: “There is no doubt about the level of public support for the BBC’s independence, impartiality and fairness. When it is being undermined by competitors and attacked by the hard right of the Conservative Party – and of course by the bitter practitioners of ‘new and kinder politics’ on the hard left, not to mention the crazed conspiracy theorists in the SNP and UKIP – is it not really important for mainstream politicians to stand up for the BBC’s right to do its job?”

Family fun day planned

A FAMILY activity day is being held at the Beacon Centre in Sedgley next month. Blind Child UK is also running workshops at the event in the centre off Wolverhampton Road East on June 25 from 10am to 3pm. There will be demonstrations of the latest technology available for visually impaired people and a chance to meet Guide Dogs. There will also be sports and arts activities for youngsters. Call 0118 983 8756 by June 11 to reserve places.

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Son finds father's 1930s Sunbeam car at museum



Robert Black, from Northumberland, at the Black Country Living Museum with his father's 1934 Sunbeam Dawn

A SON managed to track down the car his father owned more than 80 years ago.

And he found it preserved in perfect condition at the Black Country Living Museum because it belongs to the famous Wolverhampton marque Sunbeam.

Through a search of its registration plate, Robert Black found the 1934 Sunbeam Dawn – one of just eight in the world – at the attraction in Tipton Road.

When Mr Black, who lives in Northumberland, was researching his family tree, he did not expect a massive part of his father's life to be on show at one of the country's top museums.

Through his research, Mr Black uncovered a photo album of his father and grandfather, Bernard and Albert, which featured pictures of them standing in front of a car.

Robert thinks that his father bought the car in 1935 after he and his siblings were left inheritance money. Bernard, then in his mid 20s, decided he would get the latest of Sunbeam model, the Sunbeam Dawn.



His grandfather, Albert, with the car

Tickled pink by arrival of 20 pretty flamingos



Twenty flamingos have arrived at Dudley Zoo from the Seaview Wildlife Encounter on the Isle of Wight, which recently closed

ZOO workers in Dudley have been tickled pink by the arrival of 20 flamingos.

The Chilean species arrived at Dudley Zoo from the Seaview Wildlife Encounter on the Isle of Wight, which recently closed. They have now joined the zoo's eight resident flamingos.

Zoo manager Matt Lewis said: "The flamingos are one of our most popular animals on site and have been a staple feature at the zoo's entrance for many years.

"It is great to see the flock increased,

especially as we've just opened the enlarged Flamingo Falls enclosure.

"They're a mixed group of males and females, so their arrival puts us in a great place to enter into a breeding programme to increase our numbers even more."

The birds are grey in their juvenile years but turn pink as they grow older. This is sustained by their diet.

Chilean flamingos, which are listed as near threatened, are native to the warm, tropical environments in South America, living in muddy, shallow lakes.

Australian rainbow lorikeets will also be calling the Black Country home

at the Castle Hill attraction's new £40,000 Lorikeet Lookout attraction.

The walk-through exhibition will open on May 28 when visitors will be able to purchase pots of nectar to feed the parrots in the former Monkey Trails building.

Zoo Director Derek Grove said: "We've been busy for the last few weeks transforming the building into the new exhibit for the lorikeets, who are currently being cared for by our keepers in off-show aviaries.

"We're really excited about the latest addition to the zoo site and can't wait to open it to the public in a few weeks' time."

Synth-pop duo are in harmony

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

WEST Midlands synth duo Field Harmonics seem to have found the common ground between Clannad and Depeche Mode on their sometimes magnificent, sometimes derivative, second album *Corners*.

The electro-pop pair consist of Wolverhampton musician and producer Rob Glover, from experimental outfit epic45, and 19-year-old singer-songwriter Bryony Williams.

Highlights include the two singles *Life and Heron*, the sombre grandeur of *Words* and epic closing track *Fear*.

These People, the first album in six years from former Verve frontman Richard Ashcroft, celebrates his melancholy melodic strengths whilst also exploring a harder electronic sound on opener *Out Of My Body* and single *Hold On*.

The fact that Ashcroft is reunited with Will Malone, who helped create the string arrangements on classic Verve albums *A Northern Soul*, *Urban Hymns* and Ashcroft's solo debut *Alone With Everybody*, can ensure anyone who counts *A Song for the Lovers* among their favourites that they are in safe hands. This is *How It Feels* and closing track *Songs Of Experience* both have that languorous Ashcroft quality and, a few lyrical platitudes aside, this is a solid return to form.

Young Norwegian DJ and producer **Kygo** (it rolls off the tongue easier than Kyrre Gørvell-Dahl) will make a considerable impact with his debut album *Cloud Nine*, as it is chock-full of special guest singers including John Legend, Foxes, Labrinth and Kodakone.



West Midlands synth duo Field Harmonics pictured in concert

The classically trained pianist turned Wireless festival headliner has already notched up one billion plays on Spotify and his album boasts three hits – *Stole The Show* featuring Parson James, *Firestone* with Conrad Sewell and *Stay* featuring teenager Maty Noyes. Raging featuring Kodakone will be the next.

What these songs cleverly do is combine pop hooks with the feel-good euphoria of dance music, though like most current pop it tends to the bland. *Oasis* sung by Foxes and penned by Sia, *Not Alone* with Rhodes, *Fiction* featuring Tom Odell could also be plucked as potential hits.

At his best Jake Webb, leader of Aussie trio **Methyl Ethel**, is like a lo-fi Brian Wilson. He wrote, sang and played everything on debut album *Oh Inhuman Spectacle*, and formed the band to take his music from the bedroom to the world.

He shares a similar eclectic neo-psychedelic style with fellow Perth scene luminaries Tame Impala, though the nearest fit with Webb's quirky atmospheric style is Mercury Rev circa *De-serter's Songs*.

A few tracks still have the hallmarks of bedroom laptop noodling but there are several moments of pop brilliance, including jangly gems *Rogues* and *Twilight Driving*.

Another Splash of Colour: New Psychedelia in Britain 1980-1985 is a handsome three disc boxed set from RPM with a detailed booklet looking at the mostly London based bands that formed this scene that developed out of the Mod revival and New Wave.

There are some golden nuggets among the 64 tracks, including songs from *The Attractions* (minus Elvis Costello), *The Soft Boys* and their leader Robyn Hitchcock, Julian Cope, *Freight Train* and *The Green Telescope*. But there is also a lot of mediocre stuff from various Mod outfits and punks (Charlie Harper, Captain Sensible).

The interesting psych revival was actually taking place across the Atlantic, featuring *The Bangles*, *The Rain Parade* and Prince on his *Around The World In A Day* album, and the proper next stage of British psychedelic rock came in 1989 with the arrival of *The Stone Roses* and *The Charlatans*.

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18 Zoo study on snow leopards

DUDLEY Zoo's trio of snow leopards are under observation as part of a university study.

Paige Griffiths is spending 100 hours observing how Margaash, Nanga and Makalu interact with different enrichment smells.

As part of the study, keepers are adding a metre-long green dog rope into the enclosure, which Paige is either leaving unscented or covering with cinnamon or sheep bedding scent.

The 20-year-old, who is studying animal care with animal behaviour at Staffordshire University, based at Rodbaston College, said they were already discovering more about the inquisitive snow leopards' behaviour.

"The first type of rope that went in with the snow leopards was unscented," she said.

Museum gets public vote

BOSSSES at the Black Country Living Museum are celebrating after the venue notched two awards.

The museum, in Tipton Road, was named 'Best Midlands Visitor Attraction' as well as 'Best Visitor Attraction - Wolverhampton and Black Country' in the What's On Readers' Awards. More than 25,000 votes were cast online after the finalists were announced. The museum beat Alton Towers and Cadbury World.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Election result stirs fresh hope for the Hippodrome

THE CAMPAIGN to save Dudley's landmark Hippodrome has been given fresh hope – as the leaders of both the Conservative and UKIP groups at the borough council say they want to keep the historic venue.

Dudley Council has been left with no party in overall control after the local elections.

Sources say there are behind-the-scenes talks between the Tories and UKIP. The eight UKIP councillors now hold the balance of power.

By David Callaghan

"New proposals put forward by the group are much better than the previous plans submitted," he said.

"I would love to see something happen with the building and I don't agree with knocking it down."

If the two parties voted together on any issue – including the future of the Hippodrome – they would be able to outvote biggest single party, Labour.

UKIP group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood said saving the iconic Castle Hill venue is one of the party's priorities and UKIP would 'work with any party to achieve this'.

His Tory counterpart Patrick Harley also said that he wants to save the building, which hosted such stars as Laurel and Hardy before becoming a bingo hall. It is now unused.

Council Harley and praised new proposals put forward by The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, which needs up to £8 million to bring their rescue plan to fruition.

UKIP's Councillor Brothwood said they would also look at reversing plans to mothball the town's museum and art gallery in Priory Street.

He said: "Saving the museum, bringing the Hippodrome back into use, fundamental changes to children's services – these are our priorities."



Dudley Hippodrome – UKIP are determined to save the former theatre and to keep the town's museum and art gallery open

Vows are renewed in a webcast

SEVERAL couples who got married at Priory Hall renewed their vows in a live web broadcast group ceremony to celebrate the venue's 25th anniversary.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho and his wife Jayne, were among those taking part in the event on Friday, May 6, which was deemed a huge success.

All the couples renewed their marriage vows together in a joint celebration which was broadcast live on the internet for family and friends to watch. Each couple also received a commemorative certificate as a souvenir.

The ceremony was conducted by superintendent registrar Penny Fulford, who conducted a number of the original wedding ceremonies, supported by original staff member Joanne Hackett, now registration officer.

Wheel bosses Eye up return

THE DY Eye ferris wheel will be returning to Dudley for a second spin next year and will be 'bigger and better', according to town centre traders.

Business bosses and council chiefs will bring the iconic DY Eye back in 2017.

A date is yet to be confirmed, but the wheel will be back, said Len Lenihan of Dudley Market Traders. More than 11,000 people took a spin on the 115ft attraction last month.

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Traditional Indian folk tales saved for future generations



Satbhajan Singh Mann is interviewed by storyteller Peter Chand

TRADITIONAL Indian folk tales are being preserved for future generations through an innovative Black Country arts project.

Black Country Touring has been collecting stories from around the region, some of which have been unheard for more than 50 years, to ensure they are not lost forever.

The tales have been used to create a new show, which will visit Wolverhampton as part of its tour, stopping off at the Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, on June 2.

The material will also be recorded in an online archive.

The Tongue Tied & Twisted project has given the selection of folk tales, legends and myths a theatrical twist thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £28,000.

Fifty people shared tales, which have been interpreted into English from their original language and fused with a blend of urban hip hop and classical south Asian sounds for all cultures to enjoy by storyteller Peter Chand and Wolverhampton music producer Pavan Chand, from Wolverhampton.

Groups

Producer Dawinder Bansal said: "The passing down of folk tales through the generations is dying out. We knew it was important to capture this wisdom before it was too late."

Mr Chand, who grew up in Wolverhampton using Punjabi as his first language, worked with groups around the Black Country for the project, including Sandwell Asian Family Support Service (SAFSS) St Chads Asian Women's Group, Tettenhall Asian Ladies Group and Wolverhampton Elder Asian and Disabled Group (WEAD). In total 50 people shared their stories as part of the project.

He said: "Storytelling is an immediate and exciting way to engage instantly with audiences. What I love about Tongue Tied & Twisted is that it is steeped in the past but very much grounded in the present."

Black Country Touring works with a vast network of voluntary and professional promoters to create, choose and present the professional productions and events for local communities. It also works on projects where people from the Black Country can get directly involved.

Some 38,000 people have attended the group's events and shows over the last three years.



Niru Parmar, left, and Nina Sharma share stories. Pictures: Dee Patel



Storyteller Peter Chand and producer Pavan Chand

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Mag's musical memories

Jackie – Page 23



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 Opera singing finalist in The Voice 2015 Lucy O'Byrne will play Maria in this latest revival of the ever-popular family musical with Coronation Street's Andrew Lancel as Captain Von Trapp.
www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Busted



Friday, 7.30pm
Genting Arena, NEC, B'ham
 The comeback fans thought would never happen, even by the year 3000, as Charlie Simpson rejoins Matt Willis and James Bourne for guitar slinging noughties pop hits.
www.gentingarena.co.uk

James



Friday, 7.30pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
 Sit Down (or stand up) to singalong with Tim Booth (pictured) and co back with album Girl At The End Of The World. Don't miss support act Jack Savoretti.
[Visit www.barclaycardarena.co.uk](http://www.barclaycardarena.co.uk)

Graham Nash



Sunday, 8pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
 Back with new album This Path Tonight, the Salford-born singer-songwriter from The Hollies and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young looks back over five decades.
[Visit www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

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London Theatre

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure/web page for details.

DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES



MUSIC

Grimethorpe Colliery Band
 Sat at 7.30pm, £19.50
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra: Tchaikovsky's Fifth
 Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £45
 Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Fairport Convention
 Fri at 7.45pm,
 The Robin 2 Hotel, 20-28 Mount Pleasant, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Panic Room
 Sat at 3pm, Sun at 3pm
 The Robin 2 Hotel, 20-28 Mount Pleasant, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Space
 Sat at 7pm,
 O2 Academy Birmingham, 16-18 Bristol Street, Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Dominic Kirwan
 Sun at 7.30pm,
 Oakengates Theatre, Limes Road, Telford, Telford and Wrekin, TF2 6EP. Call 01952 382382

Beverley Knight
 Thu at 7pm,
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, North Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Charlie Puth
 Sun at 7pm,
 The Institute, 78 Digbeth, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Laura Mvula
 Sat at 6pm,
 The Institute, 78 Digbeth, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

The Smyths: The Smiths Tribute
 Fri at 6.30pm, £12
 O2 Academy Birmingham, 16-18 Bristol Street, Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

James
 Fri at 6pm,
 Barclaycard Arena, King Edwards Rd, City Centre, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

The Primitives
 Thu at 7.30pm - 11pm,
 Hare & Hounds, 106 High Street, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 878 0000

Lukas Graham
 Thu at 7pm,
 The Institute, 78 Digbeth, Dig-

beth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Busted
 Fri at 6pm,
 Genting Arena, Genting Arena, Perimeter Road, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

G Easy
 Tue at 7pm - 11pm,
 The Institute, 78 Digbeth, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Josh Groban
 Sat at 8pm, £50
 Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

ATTRACTIONS & MUSEUMS

Himley Hall And Country Park
 Fri at 7.30am, Sat at 7.30am, Sun at 7.30am, Mon at 7.30am, Tue at 7.30am, Wed at 7.30am, Thu at 7.30am, Free
 Himley Hall & Park, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 4DF. Call 01384 817817

The REP - Backstage Tours
 Sat at 11am,
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, St George's Court, Albion Street, Birmingham, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

A Celebration Of Women And Art
 Thu at 1pm - 1.45pm,
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

Theatre Tour
 Sat at 10.30am,
 New Alexandra Theatre, Suffolk Street Queensway, Birmingham, West Midlands, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Haden Hill House Museum
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 2pm - 6pm, Sun at 11am - 3pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Haden Hill House Museum, Hale-sowen Road, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU. Call 01384 569444

National Trust: Wightwick Manor
 Fri at 12pm - 5pm, Sat at 12pm - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 5pm, Mon at 12pm - 5pm, Wed at 12pm - 5pm, Thu at 12pm - 5pm, £4.45 - £22.25
 Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wightwick Bank, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV6 8EE. Call 01902 760100

Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford
 Fri at 10am - 6pm, Sat at 10am - 6pm, Sun at 10am - 6pm, Mon at 10am - 6pm, Tue at 10am - 6pm, Wed at 10am - 6pm, Thu

at 10am - 6pm, Free. Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP. Call 01902 376200

West Midland Safari And Leisure Park
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 6pm, Tue at 10am - 6pm, Thu at 10am - 6pm, £0 - £19.99
 West Midland Safari Park, Spring Grove, Bewdley,, Worcestershire,, DY12 1LF. Call 01299 40211

Dudley Museum & Art Gallery
 Fri at 10am - 4pm, Sat at 10am - 4pm, Mon at 10am - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 4pm, Wed at 10am - 4pm, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Free
 Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, 3 Priory Street, Dudley, DY1 1EJ. Call 01384 815575

Broadfield House Glass Museum
 Fri at 12pm - 4pm, Sat at 12pm - 4pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 12pm - 4pm, Wed at 12pm - 4pm, Thu at 12pm - 4pm, Free
 Broadfield House Glass Museum, Compton Drive, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 9NS. Call 01384 812745

Dudley Zoo & Castle
 Fri at 10am - 5.30pm, Sat at 10am - 5.30pm, Sun at 10am - 5.30pm, Mon at 10am - 5.30pm, Tue at 10am - 5.30pm, Wed at 10am - 5.30pm, Thu at 10am - 5.30pm, £0 - £13.60
 Dudley Zoological Gardens, Castle Hill, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 4QF. Call 0844 474 2272

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

Museum Of Cannock Chase
 Fri at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm, Free
 The Museum Of Cannock Chase, Valley Road, Cannock, Hednesford, Cannock, WS12 1TD. Call 01543 877666

Walsall Museum
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Walsall Museum, Lichfield Street, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 1TR. Call 01922 653116

National Trust: Moseley Old Hall
 Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 11am - 5pm, Tue

at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Moseley Old Hall, Moseley Old Hall Lane, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire , WV10 7HY. Call 01902 782808

THEATRE

Thoroughly Modern Millie
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Prince Of Wales Centre, Church Street, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Neighbourhood Watch
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Jackie The Musical
 Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £
 New Alexandra Theatre, Suffolk Street Queensway, Birmingham, West Midlands, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat
 Fri at 5pm, 8pm, Sat at 2pm, 5pm, 8pm,
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Sound Of Music
 Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
 Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Southside, Birmingham, West Midlands, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Made In Dagenham: West Bromwich Operatic Society
 Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £16 - £22
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

COMEDY

Katherine Ryan: Kathbun
 Fri at 8pm - 10pm,
 Birmingham Town Hall, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Eddie Izzard: Force Majeure
 Mon at 7pm, 8pm, 9pm, £
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Julian Clary: The Joy Of Mincing
 Thu at 8pm,
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Mark Steel: Who Do I Think I Am?

Fri at 8pm,
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

Painters, Potters & Printmakers
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, 10am - 5pm, £

Twenty Twenty Gallery, 3-4 High Street, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6AA. Call 01952 727952

A Big Bang: The Origins Of The Pop Art Collection Part 2
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, £
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield St, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Chris Holloway: A Transport Of Delight
 Mon at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
 The Museum Of Cannock Chase, Valley Road, Hednesford, WS12 1TD. Call 01543 877666

Two Tyres
 Fri at 10am - 1pm. Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 7LU. Call 01902 552507

David Ward: In A Landscape
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, £
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield St, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Big Ceramics: Discover Clay On A Monumental Scale
 Fri at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield St, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Around The World With Masks
 Fri at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm. Bantock House, Finchfield Rd, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV3 9LQ. Call 01902 552195

Antique Valuation Day
 Thu at 11am - 2pm. Bantock House, Finchfield Rd, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ. Call 01902 552195

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Don is back and king of the stage

IN ancient Britain bound by clan loyalty and the power of the sword, King Lear decides to give up his crown.

As he divides the kingdom between his daughters, family ties disintegrate, order disappears and the land slides into chaos.

Don Warrington, best known for his roles in TV shows including *Rising Damp* and, more recently, *Death in Paradise*, is coming back to Birmingham's Repertory Theatre, to play Shakespeare's greatest tragic figure.

The 64-year-old actor has won acclaim in the title role in *King Lear* on tour, one of the productions to commemorate 400 years since Shakespeare's death. Birmingham Rep, from tonight (Thursday) until May 28 is the last stop for the show – a co-production between Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre and the Talawa Theatre Company, the UK's primary Black led touring theatre company.

He has performed Shakespeare in Birmingham before, playing Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*. But this formidable, strong lead role in a three hour epic is a whole new challenge.

"It's huge. It's like looking at Mount Everest and thinking, 'I'm going to try and climb that'. You're trying to convey the essence of a human being," says Don.

"I have seen actors play Lear previously, but I asked myself what he was like, and what kind of man he was. There are clues given in the text; he's an old man who clearly has a temper. He's used to ruling, and does something that's not very wise.

"I thought about him in terms



A game of thrones – Don Warrington as King Lear, later this summer Sir Antony Sher will also take on the actor's 'Everest' at Stratford

of what a man of that age would be feeling. What would be going on with him? That's how I approached it."

Shakespeare is challenging to bring to life from text – it takes a talented actor to portray the characters as humans that we can relate to.

"Shakespeare was meant to be per-

formed, not read in a dry, academic way," says Don. "They're literature but they're meant to be done and seen. That's what he wrote them for – the stage. The more people that see them performed, with flesh and blood on them, the easier it becomes to understand."

New jukebox Jackie show

A 50something divorced mum with a teenage son is transported back to her own teen years when she happens across a box of her old Jackie magazines in *Jackie The Musical*.

Staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 28, the Mamma Mia-style jukebox musical plunders the heart-throb hits of the '70s, originally done by Donny Osmond, David Cassidy, David Essex and Marc Bolan.

Her teenage self is mystified by texting, apps and social media, and advises her middle aged self to turn to the magazine's Cathy 'n' Claire for advice on romance.

The show promises a feast of nostalgia for the age of tank tops, platform shoes, enormous flares, Tartan scarves and Top Of The Pops.

The show stars Janet Dibley, pictured left, (from TV's *The Two of Us*, *EastEnders* and *Doctors*) as Jackie, former Stourbridge Oldswinford Hospital school pupil and *EastEnders* actor Nicholas Bailey as Max, musical theatre and former Bread actor Graham Bickley as John, and Daisy Steere as Young Jackie.

With choreography by Arlene Phillips and full of hits such as *Crazy Horses*, *I Love To Love and Tiger Feet*, the show's creative consultant is Grumpy Old Woman and former Jackie editor Nina Myskow. With a trendy London address but actually based in the Scottish city of Dundee, Jackie the magazine lasted for nearly 30s years from 1964 to '93, and for around ten years was the top-selling teen title. It was full of fashion and beauty tips, love stories, life advice and pin-up posters of pop idols that ended up plastered across bedroom walls.



Fairport convene for Robin concert

TOMORROW night (Friday) folk-rock legends Fairport Convention are at Bilston's Robin 2 celebrating half a century of making music.

The line-up for this seated show includes Simon Nicol, Dave Pegg, Ric Sanders, Chris Leslie and Gerry Conway. Support comes from impressive young Black Country bluesman Sunjay.

Welsh prog rockers Panic Room take over the venue for the rest of the weekend with a host of special guests.

Canadian country singer-songwriter Tia McGrath brings her Crazy Beautiful acoustic tour to the Mount Pleasant venue on Wednesday. See www.therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Strike musical's amateur premiere

WEST Bromwich Operatic Society will be offering the West Midlands amateur premiere of the former West End musical *Made in Dagenham* at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 28.

It's 1968 and women workers take on the bosses and a male dominated union at the Ford car plant in Dagenham after a pay cut is imposed on them.

Rachel Davies, from Stourbridge, plays strike leader Rita, with John Wetherall as her husband Eddie in the show, which features some strong language.

For tickets from £16 to £22, call 01902 429212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk website.

Double bill starts gallery sessions

A CONCERT series begins at a new venue in Wolverhampton tomorrow evening (Friday) with *The Songwriter Sessions* at the city art gallery's cafe bar.

The emphasis will be on musicianship and songwriting talent in an intimate environment at the Lichfield Street gallery.

The series begins with a double bill of Wolverhampton's Gary O'Dea and former Wolverhampton University student Alex Vann. Singer and guitarist O'Dea has won acclaim for his album *Fly*. Vann recently released the fourth of his *Silhouettes & Pirouettes* collections of songs. Tickets £5.50 on the door at 7.30pm or call 0870 320 7000.



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**FAMILY FUN DAY
Monday
30th May**

CHOICE



Benedict Cumberbatch
The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses – Richard III (BBC2, 9pm)

The country seems to be finally at peace under under the rule of Edward IV and the House of York. However, a new threat emerges from within the King's own family, as his ruthless younger brother Richard, Duke of Gloucester, sets plans in motion to take the throne for himself. Beginning by arranging the imprisonment of unsuspecting middle brother George, Richard manipulates and murders all who stand in his way. As he rises in power, the Duke of Richmond raises an army to overthrow him, leading to the final battle of the Wars of the Roses. Last in the series, Benedict Cumberbatch, Judi Dench, Ben Daniels and James Fleet star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Jimmy Hill – A Man for All Seasons. (R) **2.00** FA Cup: The Road to Wembley. (R) **2.35** A Question of Sport. (R) **3.10** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **4.00** BBC News. **4.10** Regional Programme. **4.15** Match of the Day Live – The 2016 FA Cup Final. Crystal Palace v Manchester United (Kick-off 5.30pm). **7.50** **Michael McIntyre's Big Show.** The lively comedian introduces music by Katherine Jenkins and a performance by stage mentalist Colin Cloud. Plus, Robbie Savage hands over his mobile phone in Celebrity Send To All. **8.35** **The National Lottery Live.** Gaby Roslin reveals the results of the Lotto and Thunderball draws. **8.45** **Casualty.** Dylan receives a nasty surprise when Bryan turns up at the ED, having cut his hand smashing a window after locking baby Rihanna in his car. While Bryan apologises for his past behaviour, Dylan is not so sure he can ever change. Connie discovers Jacob and Elle are old friends, and the pair are given a chance to catch up while dealing with injuries at the scene of a factory accident. However, when Elle starts asking strange, probing questions about the status quo at Holby, it becomes there is an ulterior motive behind her recent arrival. Meanwhile, Charlie encourages David to be more confident, and Big Mac lies to Noel about seeking help with his addiction. **9.35** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes fears her family is planning to send her to a nursing home, when in fact it is Spartacus the dog who is set to be sent away. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (R) **10.05** BBC News; Weather. **10.25** **Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle.** Including clips of the comedian reminiscing about his school holidays, the Phoenix club's singles night and the meeting between Geraldine McQueen and Paul McCartney. (R) **10.55** **Match of the Day – 2016 FA Cup Final Highlights:** National Lottery Update. **11.30** **Film: Dream House.** (2011) **12.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Women's Football Show. (R) **6.40** **Film:** The Story of GI Joe. (1945) **8.30** **Film:** The Wooden Horse. (1950) **10.10** Natural World. (R) **11.00** FA Cup Classics. (R) **12.00** The Hairys Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) **1.00** **Film:** I Know Where I'm Going! (1945) **2.30** **Flog It!** (R) **3.00** Bake Off: Creme de la Creme. (R) **4.00** Swimming: European Championships. Helen Skelton presents live coverage from London. **6.00** **This Week's World.** Current affairs magazine show in which Emily Maitlis dissects current global problem affecting people's everyday lives, from energy to the economy and worldwide living standards. **6.30** **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don plants up containers for his jewel garden. Carol Klein identifies plants able to survive in cracks and crevices, and Zephaniah Lindo meets a fellow primula enthusiast. (R) **7.00** **Choose the Right Puppy for You.** Part two of two. Kate Humble discovers the truth about different breeds of dog, while behaviourist Louise Glazebrook helps more people find the perfect dog for them. (R) **8.00** **Grand Tours of Scotland.** New series. Paul Murton travels round the Isle of Arran, visiting the famous King's Cave. Lochranza, Brodick Castle and Kildonan before ending his trip at Cleat's Store. **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring and the platoon welcome the first American troops to Walmington-on-Sea, but Anglo-US relations become strained. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R) **9.00** **The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses – Richard III.** The country is finally at peace under the rule of Edward IV and the House of York – but the ruthless Duke of Gloucester plots to seize the throne for himself. Last in the series. **11.10** **Film: Last Chance Harvey.** (2008) A miserably New Yorker falls for an equally unfulfilled woman he meets while in London to attend his daughter's wedding. Romantic drama, starring Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson. **12.40** **Film:** Elena. (2011) **2.20** This Is BBC Two. **5.35** The Great Chelsea Garden Challenge. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **12.05** ITV News; Weather. **12.14** Regional Programme. **12.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.15** BBC Champ. (R) **2.20** **Film:** Hulk. (2003) Comic-strip adventure, starring Eric Bana. **4.55** The Wine Show. **6.00** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.15** **ITV News;** Weather. **6.30** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a possessed oddler and a driver chasing a runaway car. **7.00** **Bang on the Money.** Game show in which two teams from Middlesbrough and Cleethorpes aim to hit a specific target number in a series of physical and mental challenges. **8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the final round of auditions before the nationwide talent contest moves on to the next stage, the Judges' Decisions. One last selection of would-be stars demonstrate their signature skills to Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams, in the hope of securing a place among the acts seeking a place in the semi-finals. However, there are no Golden Buzzers left to send promising stars straight through to the finals, so even the most eye-catching acts will have to fight for a place in the semi-finals. **9.15** **Play to the Whistle.** Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show, with guests Piers Morgan, Danny Cipriani and Katherine Ryan joining the regulars. Last in the series. **10.00** **ITV News;** Weather. **10.15** **Film: Run Fat Boy Run.** (2007) A man who regrets leaving his fiancée standing at the altar tries to prove his love for her by running a marathon. Romantic comedy, with Simon Pegg. **12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park, Goodwood and York. **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.30** Homes by the Med. **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Grand Designs: Living in the City.** Kevin McCloud presents one of four special programmes inspired by 15 years of Grand Designs. He begins with a look at the challenges of self-building in the city, where space is at a premium and architects have to be at their most ingenious. Kevin uses footage from the best urban builds from the show over the years, meets pioneers at the forefront of the latest architectural thinking and looks at clever innovations that continue to transform people's lives to reveal which designs work best and why. (R) **8.00** **Jutland: WWI's Greatest Sea Battle.** Re-examining the events of the First World War naval battle, as the grandson of the admiral who led the British forces tries to salvage his grandfather's reputation. **9.00** **Film: The Hunger Games.** (2012) A totalitarian future-America holds an annual nationally televised event in which two children from each of its regions fight to the death until only one remains. A teenage girl takes her younger sister's place in the games and must pit her wits against the deadly combat skills of her rivals. Sci-fi adventure based on Suzanne Collins' novel, starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Elizabeth Banks. **11.50** **Film: Savages.** (2012) Two marijuana dealers attract the attention of a Mexican drug cartel that kidnaps their shared girlfriend. Crime drama, starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson. **2.05** Hollywoods. (R) **4.10** The Three Day Nanny. (R) **5.05** Posh Pawnbrokers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Fails & Flops. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents Stewart and Vic experience one of the most violent cases they have ever faced when they are confronted by an angry older gentleman. (R) **6.55** **5 News Weekend.** **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v Sri Lanka. Highlights from the third day of the First Test in a three-match series, which takes place at Headingley. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes. **8.00** **NCIS: Los Angeles.** Three men stage a raid on a drug deal, taking a suitcase full of cash and killing the dealer and an undercover LAPD officer. While studying footage taken from CCTV equipment in the house, Sam recognises the distinctive hand signals of one of the suspects as being those of Navy Seal Kurt Holgate, who he served with in Bosnia. Eric studies the details of his unit and finds that a man called Jackson has been unaccounted for since the day of the attack. (R) **9.00** **NCIS.** Gibbs and the team investigate when the first openly gay Navy lieutenant set to receive the Medal of Honour is murdered. **9.55** **NCIS: New Orleans – Murder in the Bayou.** Double bill. When the body of a former agent washes ashore in New Orleans, Gibbs believes the murder could be linked to a case the victim had previously worked on. DiNozzo, McGee and the FBI continue to track political connections to the case of the murder of a former agent, while Bishop sends DiNozzo a souvenir. **11.30** **True Crimes: The First 72 Hours.** The body of a Toronto property broker is found in a utility closet at her office, and one of her colleagues suggests police turn their attention to a former maintenance worker. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** BAMMA 25: Champion vs Champion.

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Francesco's Venice **8.00** The World's Most Expensive Stolen Paintings **9.00** Hinterland **10.30** BBC: The Secret Files 2 **11.30** Rod Stewart at the BBC **12.30** Rod Stewart Live at Hyde Park **1.30** Top of the Pops: 1983 **2.50** Rod Stewart at the BBC **3.50** Close **ITV2** **11.20** Britain's Got Talent **12.40** Britain's Got More Talent **1.40** Catchphrase **2.20** Scorpion **3.00** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20** **Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **5.05** **Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** **Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **7.20** **Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25** **Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Dad! **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.20** @ elevenish **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **12.30** Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **2.50** Foyle's War **4.50** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Trial & Retribution **1.05** Northern Lights **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **11.30** Pawn Stars **12.00** **Film:** Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** **Film:** Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **2.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Berlin ePrix. **4.30** Pawn Stars **5.00** **Film:** The Appaloosa (1966) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15** **Film:** The Appaloosa (1966) **7.00** **Film:** Casino Royale (1967) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** **Film:** Casino Royale (1967) **9.50** River Monsters **10.50** **Film:** State of Play (2009) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** **Film:** State of Play (2009) **1.15** Hell on Wheels **2.10** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.30** The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** **Film:** Leap Year (2010) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Attack the Block (2011) **10.45** Gogglebox **12.05** The Inbetweeners **1.55** Rude Tube **2.50** Gogglebox **3.45** Rules of Engagement **4.30** Rude(ish) Tube **4.55** Revenge **Film4** **11.00** The Dark Crystal (1982) **1.00** Hairspray (2007) **3.15** Sword of Shallowford Forest (1960) **4.55** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **6.40** Tootsie **2.50** Gogglebox **3.45** Rules of Engagement **4.30** Rude(ish) Tube **4.55** 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CHOICE



Kenneth Branagh

Wallander (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Kenneth Branagh stars as the world-weary Swedish detective in a fourth and final series of adaptations of Henning Mankell's novels. Wallander travels to Cape Town to investigate the disappearance of a Swedish woman. He uncovers a complex conspiracy behind the mystery, and is also confronted with a turning point in its history. Bonnie Mbuli, Alex Ferns, John Kani, Tessa Jubber, Lemogang Tsipa, Jeany Spark, Deon Lotz, Tumisho Masha also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 8.25 Match of the Day – 2016 FA Cup Final Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Lose Weight for Love. (R) **3.30** Nature's Epic Journeys. (R) **4.30** Lifetime. **4.40** Points of View. **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016. **6.30** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Countryfile.** A special episode for National Vegetarian Week, in which Matt Baker visits Jersey during the Royal Potato Harvest and Ellie Harrison creates a landscape photograph with vegetables. Naomi Wilkinson samples some Indian vegetarian recipes, sheep farmer Gareth Wynn Jones and free runner Tim Shieff debate the pros and cons of veganism, and Adam Henson visits an underground urban farm. Plus, Tom Heap investigates why many vegetable growers face going out of business. Including Weather For The Week Ahead. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** The team visits Tredreg House near Newport in Wales, where items include a tapestry woven in tribute to Status Quo, a frog-shaped brooch and an intricately carved coconut. (R) **9.00** **Wallander.** New series. Kenneth Branagh stars as the world-weary Swedish detective in a fourth and final series of adaptations of Henning Mankell's novels. Wallander travels to Cape Town to investigate the disappearance of a Swedish woman. He uncovers a complex conspiracy behind the mystery, and is also confronted with a nation that has reached a turning point in its history. **10.30** BBC News. **10.50** Regional Programme. **11.00** Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank Skinner hosts an extended edition as Jonathan Ross, Michael Vaughan and Sara Pascoe try to persuade him to banish their least favourite things to the infamous room. (R) **11.40** Athletics: Diamond League Rabat Highlights. **12.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 This Farming Life. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile Spring Special. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Live Athletics: Great Manchester Run. Coverage of the 14th staging of the event. **1.00** Film: Custer of the West. (1967) Historical biopic about the life of the controversial American cavalry commander who met his end at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. With Robert Shaw, Mary Ure and Jeffrey Hunter. **3.15** Hog It! (R) **4.00** Swimming: European Championships. Live coverage of the final day. **6.00** **Athletics: Great Manchester Run Highlights.** Action from the 14th annual staging of the 10k race, as elite athletes and thousands of fun runners competed. With commentary by Steve Cram, Paula Radcliffe and Andrew Cotter. **7.00** **Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF.** The Red Arrows mark the end of an era as they appear in a succession of airshows, including events where they fly alongside a Vulcan bomber and a Chinook helicopter. The pilots have to undergo gruelling underwater training before they can appear at a planned display in Blackpool, but it seems that the performance may be grounded as a result of high winds. (R) **8.00** **World Cup 1966: Alfie's Boys.** **9.30** **Horizon: E-Cigarettes.** Series examining topical scientific issues. **10.35** **Russell Man, Smart Phone.** Stephen Kane and Aaron Craswell go on adventures around the world, using a smartphone to gain the information they need to survive. **11.25** **Later... with Jools Holland.** Extended edition. Iggy Pop makes his debut on the show, performing tracks from his recent album Post Pop Depression. Plus, Lou Doillon, Protoje and Graham Nash. (R) **12.30** **Sign Zone: Countryfile Spring Special.** The team reports on signs of spring around the country, with Ellie Harrison monitoring pods of dolphins in Cardigan Bay and John Craven visiting a hay meadow in Wiltshire. (R) **1.25** **Holby City.** Zosia makes a gut-wrenching decision after overstepping the mark and accusing a patient of a media leak. Dominic faces his fears when he encounters someone with a painful past. (R) **2.25** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two. **6.35** This Farming Life. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile Spring Special. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Live Athletics: Great Manchester Run. Coverage of the 14th staging of the event. **1.00** Film: Custer of the West. (1967) Historical biopic about the life of the controversial American cavalry commander who met his end at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. With Robert Shaw, Mary Ure and Jeffrey Hunter. **3.15** Hog It! (R) **4.00** Swimming: European Championships. Live coverage of the final day. **6.00** **Athletics: Great Manchester Run Highlights.** Action from the 14th annual staging of the 10k race, as elite athletes and thousands of fun runners competed. With commentary by Steve Cram, Paula Radcliffe and Andrew Cotter. **7.00** **Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF.** The Red Arrows mark the end of an era as they appear in a succession of airshows, including events where they fly alongside a Vulcan bomber and a Chinook helicopter. The pilots have to undergo gruelling underwater training before they can appear at a planned display in Blackpool, but it seems that the performance may be grounded as a result of high winds. (R) **8.00** **World Cup 1966: Alfie's Boys.** **9.30** **Horizon: E-Cigarettes.** Series examining topical scientific issues. **10.35** **Russell Man, Smart Phone.** Stephen Kane and Aaron Craswell go on adventures around the world, using a smartphone to gain the information they need to survive. **11.25** **Later... with Jools Holland.** Extended edition. Iggy Pop makes his debut on the show, performing tracks from his recent album Post Pop Depression. Plus, Lou Doillon, Protoje and Graham Nash. (R) **12.30** **Sign Zone: Countryfile Spring Special.** The team reports on signs of spring around the country, with Ellie Harrison monitoring pods of dolphins in Cardigan Bay and John Craven visiting a hay meadow in Wiltshire. (R) **1.25** **Holby City.** Zosia makes a gut-wrenching decision after overstepping the mark and accusing a patient of a media leak. Dominic faces his fears when he encounters someone with a painful past. (R) **2.25** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Grit's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** FIA Formula E Championship. **12.00** ITV News: Weather. **12.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.15** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **1.45** Fierce. (R) **2.45** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme: Weather. (R) **4.15** ITV News: Weather. **4.30** Live International Football. **7.30** **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the first semi-final of this year's contest. The audition process is complete, and has left judges Amanda Holden, David Walliams, Simon Cowell and Alesha Dixon with 45 acts to pick and choose from. Tonight, nine of them will be performing live in the hope of impressing both the panel and the TV audience. The winner of tonight's viewers' vote will automatically go through to the live grand final, before the two runners up face the judges to decide which of them will also win a place. **9.00** **Coronation Street.** As the locals prepare for Carla and Nick's wedding, Johnny goes to extreme lengths to stop Tracy from ruining the big day, even if it means missing the chance to walk his daughter down the aisle. **9.30** **Britain's Got Talent Results.** Ant and Dec announce the results of tonight's viewers' vote before the judges choose a second act to go through to the final. Featuring the cast of West End musical Motown. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** **International Football Highlights.** England v Turkey. Jacqui Oatley presents action from the friendly encounter, which took place at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester and served as a Euro 2016 warm-up for both countries. **11.20** **Premiership Rugby Union.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present highlights of the semi-finals, which were Saracens v Leicester Tigers at Allianz Park and Exeter Chiefs v Wasps at Sandy Park. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Salvage SOS. **6.45** Salvage SOS. **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Film: Step Up. (2006) An aspiring ballerina and a street-smart teenager pair up for a dance project and love begins to blossom between them. Romantic drama, starring Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan. Edited for language and violence. **2.30** Film: Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** A Place in the Sun. Winter Sun. **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Penelope Keith's Favourite Villages.** The actress travels around Britain visiting villages in different parts of the country, and discovering how people's attitudes have changed to these small communities. **8.00** **Film: The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.** (2011) Seven English pensioners looking for a fresh start are drawn to an advert for a hotel in the Indian city of Jaipur, and plan to spend their retirement there. They arrive to find the building dilapidated but are won over by the enthusiastic young manager, and each embarks on their own adventures in the city. Comedy drama, starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith and Dev Patel. Edited for language. **10.25** **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) **11.30** **Film: Hitchcock.** (2012) Fact-based drama about the making of Psycho, and the film's impact on Alfred Hitchcock's relationship with his wife and creative partner. With Anthony Hopkins. **1.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.40** Win It Cook It. Simon Rimmer and guest judge Matt Tebbutt compare chicken making and meatball dishes. **4.05** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer head to Liverpool, where they help two women with different lifestyles find a home, and advise a student on how to get on the property ladder. (R) **5.05** Fifteen to One. Sandi Toksvig hosts the general knowledge quiz, in which 15 contestants test themselves against their rivals. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.06** Pets. **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pig Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Now That's Funny! (R) **11.25** Film: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2. (2013) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Bill Hader. **1.10** Most Shocking Talent Show Moments. (R) **4.05** Film: Puss in Boots: The Movie. (2014) Premiere. Family comedy, starring Jessica Hynes. **5.55** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **6.55** 5 News Weekend. **7.00** **Cricket** on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights from the fourth day of the First Test in a three-match series, which takes place at Headingley. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes. **8.00** **Secrets of the Valley of the Kings.** **9.00** **Film: Saboteur.** (2014) Premiere. The members of an elite Drug Enforcement Administration team secretly keep the millions of dollars they find during the raid. When they are killed off one by one, the leader becomes convinced one of his men is getting rid of the others to keep all the money, and sets out to expose the murderer. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sam Worthington. Edited for language. **11.05** **Film: Under Siege.** (1992) A veteran US Navy Seal working on a battleship as a cook leads into action to liberate the vessel from terrorists. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones. Edited for broadcast. **12.55** **PremierCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Police Interceptors. Paul Faulkner has a close shave with a stolen vehicle. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! Pleasure seekers get more than they bargained for at an amusement park. (R) **4.50** Nick's Quest. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Karajan's Myth and Magic **8.30** EastEnders **9.00** From EastEnders to Hollywood: Antonia Bird **10.30** Film: Care (2000) **12.15** Horizon: The Core **1.15** Pop! The Science of Bubbles **1.15** Karajan's Myth and Magic **3.45** Close ITV2
11.45 Take Me Out **1.00** Film: A Little Princess (1995) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05** Film: A Little Princess (1995) **2.55** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.00** Britain's Got Talent **6.15** Britain's Got More Talent **7.15** Film: Hulk (2003) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25** Film: Hulk (2003) **10.00** Britain's Got More Talent **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
11.45 Foyle's War **1.50** Film: Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm (1973) **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.55** Margery and Gladys **8.00** Rosemary & Thyme **10.00** Ghostboat **11.35** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.35** Blue Murder **2.25** May the Best House Win **4.10** On the Buses **5.00** Judge Judy **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
9.00 Premiership Rugby Union **10.00** Film: Raw Deal (1986) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** Film: Raw Deal (1986) **12.10** Film: Red Heat (1988) **1.10** FYI Daily **1.15** Film: Red Heat (1988) **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
1.00 Made in Chelsea **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.30** Film: Maid in Manhattan (2002) **5.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Film: Daredevil (2003) **12.05** The Inbetweeners **1.05** The 100 **2.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.55** Rush Hour **3.35** Hollywoods **Film4**
11.00 Faintheart (2008) **1.00** The Golden Compass (2007) **3.10** Marmaduke (2010) **4.55** Tooth Fairy (2010) **7.00** Just Married (2003) **8.10** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) The victor in a televised battle to the death returns to the arena to face other past champions. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Liam Hemsworth. **11.50** House of Flying Daggers (2004) Officers are sent to locate a rebel threatening the Tang dynasty, and happen across a beautiful blind dancer. Martial arts adventure, starring Zhang Ziyi and Takeshi Kaneshiro. **2.10** Kelly + Victor (2012) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Killer Switch, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman accidentally picks up the wrong suitcase from the airport baggage reclaim on her way to her daughter's graduation. Later, she receives a phone call from a man claiming he will harm her daughter if she fails to follow his instructions to return his suitcase. Thriller, starring Jamie Luner. (2016)

TUESDAY

Columbo: A Stitch in Crime, ITV, 11.45pm

A surgeon plans to get rid of his colleague in an experimental drug test, and when his fellow medic needs heart surgery, he performs the operation himself and discreetly arranges some fatal complications. However, when he also murders a nurse who suspects the truth, he attracts the attention of the slovenly sleuth. Crime drama, starring Peter Falk, Leonard Nimoy and Will Geer. (1973)



I Love You, Man, Friday, BBC1, 11.50pm

WEDNESDAY

Dragonfly, BBC1, 11.45pm

A doctor uses work as a way of coping with his grief over the death of his pregnant wife – but when strange things begin to happen around him, he becomes convinced she is trying to contact him from beyond the grave. Supernatural drama, starring Kevin Costner and Kathy Bates. (2002)

THURSDAY

Reluctant Witness, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Erin believes that she has left her Mob ties behind after being placed in a witness protection programme. However, the man she thought she had killed turns up under an assumed identity and bent on revenge, meaning she must protect her new life and her family. Thriller, starring Mia Kirshner. (2014)

FRIDAY

I Love You, Man, BBC1, 11.50pm

As he prepares for his wedding, estate agent Peter realises there is something missing – a male friend, which he doesn't have, to be his best man. His quest for a suitable candidate leads him to laid-back, hard-drinking Sydney and the pair become inseparable buddies – to the horror of Peter's fiancée. Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Jason Segel. (2009)

Sisters are hoping to rise to the challenge

Let's face it, we'd all love to be able to have our cake and eat it – but is that really possible?

When it comes to healthy eating, sisters Jasmine and Melissa Hemsley claim it is, and now they are trying to teach us all how to do it via this series, which began a couple of weeks ago.

Over the years, many TV chefs have attempted to teach us how to prepare low-calorie and low-fat versions of our favourite recipes, and while we may start out with good intentions, we have a tendency to fall back into our old ways before long, perhaps because some of the ideas they have adopted are too complicated or involve ingredients we either don't have lying around or are impossible to get at your average supermarket.

But the Hemsley girls are different. There's nothing weird about their cookery lessons, but the results are rather wonderful.

Their aim isn't to blind us with science, but rather to teach their fans how to develop a good relationship with food while instructing them in the fine art of gut health.

They learnt their trade by catering for such starry clients as Louis Vuitton, Chanel and Vivienne Westwood, and are now devoted to preparing food that is natural, satisfying and easy to digest, and which doesn't involve gluten, grains and refined sugar; what's more there's no compromise when it comes to flavour.

The sisters are photogenic, so it should come as no surprise that they've landed this programme. In fact, the only shock is that it's taken them so long to get their own show; it's six years since they began their own business.

"We're delighted to be working with Jasmine and Melissa and bringing their inspiring brand of healthy living to a wider audience," says Andrea Olson, Channel 4's head of factual entertainment and the series' executive producer. "The Hemsleys are a perfect fit for our slate and roster of passionate talent with global appeal."

The ladies themselves were certainly thrilled by the idea of being able to reach more people than ever

before: "Our mouths are watering at the prospect of sharing these tasty, healthy and easy to make recipes with Channel 4's viewers!" said Jasmine at the show's launch, while Melissa added: "I can't wait to see our readers' reaction to our new TV show and this is a fantastic opportunity for us to reach out to a wider audience."

The first episode saw them prepare perfect dishes for sharing with friends, including huevos rancheros with guacamole, slow-cooked lamb with anchovies, and a chocolate dessert.

Last week, they did something seemingly impossible – they turned the usually calorie-packed great British fry-up into a healthy meal before turning their attention to a Filipino dish and a ragu.

This time around, the culinary magicians will demonstrate how to bake gluten-free treats by using alternatives to traditional flour such as ground almonds and coconut flour. They also meet two urban beekeepers in London while on the lookout for a sweet substitute for sugar.



Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley, Monday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Secrets of the Nazi Occult Channel 5, 9pm

Documentaries about the Nazis and their activities are not exactly thin on the ground – stick a pin in any given week and you can usually hit at least one or two tucked away in the TV schedules. While the majority of them seem to cover the same, most obvious areas of study, this one promises to be a little more leftfield. It examines the theory that many members of the Nazi high command, including both Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Himmler, were members of a secret society that held top secret meetings and rituals at Wewelsburg Castle in Germany. It sounds like the plot for the next Indiana Jones movie, but evidence suggesting that occult practices were at play is compelling.

TUESDAY

The KKK: Behind The Mask Channel 5, 9pm

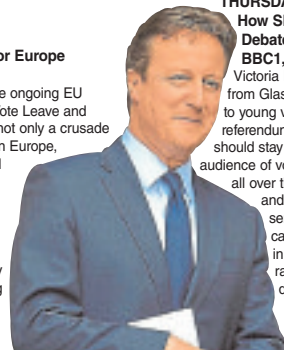
Founded in 1866 in Pulaski, Tennessee, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) extended into almost every southern state by 1870 and despite not having a well-organised structure or clear leadership, it grew to become the most notorious white supremacist group in America. At its peak in the 1920s it had over four million members, but today it's a shadow of its

former self. However, KKK marches, cross burnings and racial hatred continue in the Deep South states. This eye-opening and stark documentary profiles today's Klan members, examines the impact the group has had on American society over the last 150 years, and asks the question: is the country is heading for a new race war?

WEDNESDAY

Boris v Dave: The Battle for Europe Channel 4, 9pm

Michael Crick outlines how the ongoing EU Referendum battle between Vote Leave and Britain Stronger in Europe is not only a crusade to determine the UK's future in Europe, but also an intensely personal skirmish between two of Britain's most high-profile politicians. As fellow Tories, former London mayor Boris Johnson and Prime Minister David Cameron are ostensibly allies, but the pair have a long and storied history dating back through their time at Oxford, as members of the exclusive Bullingdon Club, to their shared childhood



Boris v Dave: The Battle for Europe, Wednesday, Channel 4, 9pm

THURSDAY

How Should I Vote? – The EU Debate BBC1, 8pm

Victoria Derbyshire hosts a live debate from Glasgow on the issues that matter to young voters ahead of the June 23 referendum on whether or not the UK should stay in the European Union. An audience of voters under the age of 30 from all over the UK will put their questions and concerns direct to a panel of senior politicians central to the campaigns to Leave or Remain in the EU, while viewers can also raise their points and put questions through social media.

The Truth About Alcohol BBC1, 9pm

Doctor David Abdelmoneim explores

the science behind drinking alcohol, including why the weekly recommended intake was lowered in January, with the men's limit cut by a third to 14 units per week. He also asks whether a nightcap can aid sleep, why some people get drunk quicker than others, and probes the new evidence for the health risks posed by alcohol. Plus, he investigates what is behind the relatively healthy reputation of red wine and whether lining your stomach before drinking really does work and lessens the effects of a night out.

FRIDAY

Live International Football ITV, 7.30pm

England v Australia (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from the friendly match, which takes place at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland and serves as a Euro 2016 warm-up for England. Roy Hodgson's side breezed through their qualifying group for this summer's tournament in France, winning all 10 of their games to finish as the only country with a 100 per cent record. The manager will be hoping his squad can continue that excellent form at the finals, and will also be looking for a strong performance in this match against Ange Postecoglou's men. With analysis from Ian Wright and Lee Dixon, and commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle.

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Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

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Visits are also made to St Albans, Kenwood House and the Royal Airforce Museum.

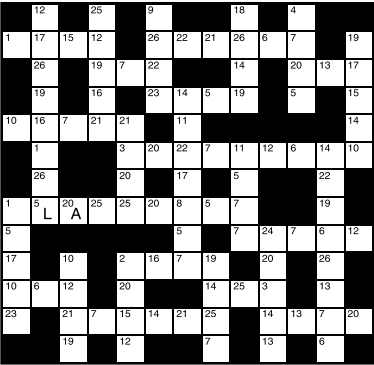
Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)



BRAIN GYM No.378

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
R X I M K B O F P Q H V C
Z W G L D N Y U S E T A J

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

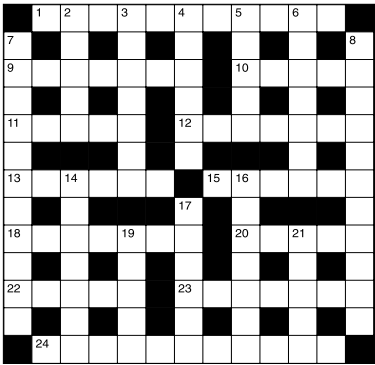
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Used for making up a strange pie (11)
- 9. Streams of invective one gets in some professions (7)
- 10. Illicit photograph? (5)
- 11. Man-made product found in many London stores (5)
- 12. A red tongue (7)
- 13. Reply some Americans were hoping for (6)
- 15. Pat may speak it or wear it (6)
- 18. He makes his mark at times (7)
- 20. The smallest type of slate (5)
- 22. Mince pies having a brown colour (5)
- 23. A painstaking preparation? (7)
- 24. Bert at speed becomes splashed with mud (11)

Down

- 2. In Peru rallies are held in the country (5)
- 3. Term in music, and type of bet (7)
- 4. Possibly run and see to make certain (6)
- 5. Girls lose their heads - the fools! (5)
- 6. Driving a point home? (7)
- 7. This order won't require attention (5,2,4)
- 8. Silent dance arranged in secret (11)
- 14. A high point of religious architecture (7)
- 16. Be as bad as ever about a mistake (7)
- 17. It may be played when not in form (6)
- 19. Seagoing vagabond (5)
- 21. Possibly eager to correspond (5)



Quick Clues:

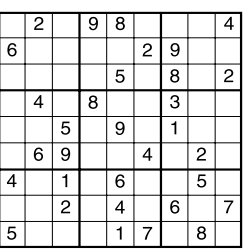
Across

- 1. Diligence (11)
- 9. Desert (7)
- 10. Female relative (5)
- 11. Boredom (5)
- 12. Graceful (7)
- 13. Infuriate (6)
- 15. Plan (6)
- 18. Type of raisin (7)
- 20. Light purple (5)
- 22. Swift (5)
- 23. Oriental (7)
- 24. Spy (6,5)

Down

- 2. Evident (5)
- 3. Accommodation (7)
- 4. Annul (6)
- 5. Taut (5)
- 6. Intimidate (7)
- 7. Flexible rule (4,7)
- 8. Vane (11)
- 14. Fall back (7)
- 16. Vocation (7)
- 17. Empty (6)
- 19. Viper (5)
- 21. Ancient language (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	2	9	4	5	1	7	6	3
4	6	3	2	7	8	1	5	9
1	7	5	3	6	9	8	4	2
9	3	2	8	4	6	1	5	7
7	5	4	1	3	2	6	9	8
6	1	8	9	7	5	3	2	4
5	4	6	7	9	8	2	3	1
3	8	1	6	2	4	5	7	9
2	9	7	5	1	3	4	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Skittles; 5 Form; 9 Corna; 10 Idolater; 11 Skain; 12 Run down; 13 Trial and error; 18 Assuaged; 19 Cuff; 20 Neptune; 21 Lions; 22 Rode; 23 Stranded. Down: 2 Knockers; 3 Tsarina; 4 Endurance test; 6 Outdoor; 7 Mariner; 8 Glance; 13 Trainer; 14 Insipid; 15 League; 16 Ruction; 17 Offence. QUICK - Across: 1 Appendix; 5 Heal; 9 Fret; 10 Strategy; 11 Alter; 12 Nominal; 13 Exceptionally; 18 Confound; 19 Send; 20 Special; 21 Begun; 22 Dull; 23 Symmetry. Down: 2 Perplex; 3 Extreme; 4 Intentionally; 6 Eternal; 7 Loyalty; 8 Layman; 13 Excused; 14 Congeal; 15 Profit; 16 Austere; 17 Languor.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. Which royal gave birth to Columbus in 1994?
- 2. Within which present-day country is the ancient Sumerian city of Ur?
- 3. Of what nationality was former UN secretary-general U Thant?
- 4. Which Chinese philosophical terms mean 'dark' and 'bright'?
- 5. Which river forms 1,500 miles of the US-Mexican border?

- 6. What was the pen name of the novelist Marie Henri Beyle?
- 7. Who preceded Peter Mandelson as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland?
- 8. Who wrote The Railway Children in 1906?
- 9. Which Church's doctrine is set out in the Thirty-Nine Articles?
- 10. Which Greek herald lost a shouting contest with Hermes?

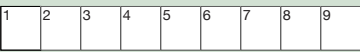
Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Rudolf Hess; 2 Tahiti; 3 Whooping cough; 4 American football; 5 Superman; 6 Ear; 7 Cleopatra; 8 Turkey; 9 Four Weddings and a Funeral; 10 Volleyball. Niner: UNMATCHED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 3451 gives a girl's name,
- 21769 gives a second girl's name,
- 845461 gives a third girl's name.



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Book a visit – The Bronte Parsonage, Haworth, West Yorkshire



Write on – the newly refurbished Mr Bronte's study



Storytime – a family in the garden at Hill Top, near Sawrey, Lake District



Peter Rabbit and friends at The World of Beatrix Potter

Booking in for anniversary of two of literature's great female figures

TWO of English literature's great female figures, Beatrix Potter and Charlotte Bronte, are commemorated with anniversaries this year.

We travel north to find out more. Wandering around the Lake District's World of Beatrix Potter Attraction, I quickly forget I've ever grown up.

Children and parents are lost in Beatrix's delightful imaginary world, so perfectly illustrated in her books. I traipse through a reconstruction of the Peter Rabbit garden with glee, spying Jemima Puddle-Duck and a bronze statue of three children unveiled by Renee Zellweger in 2006.

The Windermere attraction is gearing up to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Beatrix's birth with a series of events, including a live-action show of her stories per-

By Nicholas McAvaney

formed during the summer months.

In fact, attractions all over the region have plans to honour the early 20th century children's author.

Continuing my journey across Lake Windermere, I stop at the Beatrix Potter Gallery in Hawkshead where originals of her intricate watercolour illustrations are on display.

The inspiration for many of her stories was her beloved home Hill Top, in nearby Sawrey. Here I learn some intriguing facts about the author who I had always presumed was a kind old lady, fond of children and animals.

She was in fact a shrewd businesswoman and her books were merely a revenue stream to acquire and maintain a sizeable real estate portfolio in the Lake District.

She eventually bequeathed a number of the properties to the National Trust in her will.

Copies of Beatrix's stories have been carefully placed around the house, bookmarked at pages where a room or items in it feature. Returning to the grown-up world, my journey ends at the adjacent Tower Bank Arms, a pub owned by the National Trust but managed independently. The manager gives me a lengthy spiel about the wide range of ales available.

Quaint

Moving on . . . strolling along Haworth's main street, I stop every few metres for a photo of the quaint stone shop fronts and postcard-worthy views over the Yorkshire Moors. I find it hard to imagine the village was once a crowded industrial town and a cesspool of death and disease during the early 19th century period, when English lit-

erature's great Bronte sisters lived here. At that time, the average age of death was 24. The girls' father, Patrick, played a pivotal role in helping clean up the village's water supply. But his own children failed to benefit, as they passed away before him.

His valiant efforts are documented at the Bronte Parsonage, the Bronte's former family home, now a museum. I visit to find out more about the tragedy-tinged lives of Charlotte, Emily, Anne and their brother Branwell.

It's 200 years since Charlotte was born, and a special exhibition aims to further explore her life. Each night the sisters would meet at the dining table to comment on each other's work. Their portable writing tables are on display, along with the chair on which Emily succumbed to illness in 1848, only 12 months after her only novel, *Wuthering Heights*, was published.

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Celebrate at the Windsor Castle Inn

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

THE Windsor Castle Inn celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

Home to Sadler's Ales Brewery, the Windsor Castle Inn in Lye is the tap house to Sadler's Ales.

The brewery began in 1900, founded by Nathaniel Sadler who also opened his own tap house called The Windsor Castle which closed in the 1920s.

In 2006 John Sadler, grandson of the founder, re-opened The Windsor Castle Inn. Emily, daughter of John Sadler, and her husband Gareth Bedford now own and run the Windsor Castle Inn. Over the years they have extended and refurbished the pub and restaurant. It is still proud to be the tap house for Sadler's Brewery and serves 10 craft beers which are all brewed on site.

The Windsor Castle Inn has a five star health and hygiene award from Dudley Council and a fantastic reputation for its food. Andre Pelaud leads a team of elite and passionate chefs. The pub food is so popular that it is always advisable to book a table. The menu has something for everyone and every Friday is Gluten Free.

They also serve breakfasts every Saturday 9am to 11am. The Windsor Castle Inn also has a four star bed and breakfast facility.

To celebrate 10 years, the Windsor is holding special events throughout the year, the first one is a Peaky Blinder Weekend on May 28 to 30.

Gareth said: "We are proud to serve the Black Country and welcome both old and new customers to celebrate our tenth year".



Windsor Castle Inn owner Gareth Bedford and head chef Andre Pelaud



The Windsor Castle Inn, Lye, is the tap house to Sadler's Ales

Family home backs onto woodland and open countryside

This well proportioned three bedroom family home on Longmeadow Drive, Sedgley, is enviably positioned on the popular Northway Housing Estate, backing onto protected woodland and open fields.

Being convenient for the town centre and all amenities, yet also close to open greenbelt countryside, it is for sale through Wakeman at £275,000 with no chain.

This fine home offers excellent and well proportioned accommodation including a re-fitted cloakroom with a built in WC, wash hand basin in a vanity unit and a useful utility room.

There is a sitting room with a dining area at the front with double doors leading to an extended, attractive lounge which has lovely views over adjoining countryside. The extended breakfast kitchen is extremely well fitted with an extensive range of units.

On the first floor there are three bedrooms, all with built-in wardrobes and storage cupboards. The spacious bathroom is fully tiled with a built in WC, wash hand basin in a vanity unit and work top. The bathroom comprises of a panelled bath with a shower over and has a separate shower cubicle.

The property occupies a wide garden plot with ample off road parking and an attractively landscaped rear garden. It also comes with a garage and parking space for several vehicles.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "A personal inspection is highly recommended in order to fully appreciate all the attributes the property has to offer."

In more detail the entrance hall has wooden parquet flooring. The lounge is a very pleasant room that has French doors and attractive views.

The extended breakfast kitchen has granite work top surfaces, an integrated fridge/freezer, part tiled walls, a ceramic tiled floor, and ceiling spotlights.

The utility room has ceramic floor tiling.

Upstairs bedroom one has a range of built-in wardrobes with storage cupboards and a dressing table with a chest of drawers. Bedroom two has a built-in wardrobe with storage cupboard over, a dressing table and chest of drawers. Bedroom three has a built-in wardrobe and a storage cupboard over. The spacious bathroom has a built-in WC and wash hand basin, vanity unit and a work top, panel bath with a mixer tap and shower fitting, separate shower cubicle with a glazed shower screen, built in cupboard, full height tiling to walls, ceramic tiled floor and a chrome towel rail style radiator.

The attractively landscaped rear garden has a slabbed patio, lawn, shrub borders and beds. The garden slopes down to a stream.

KEY FEATURES

- No chain
- Three bedrooms
- Extended breakfast kitchen
- Enviably positioned
- Convenient for town centre
- Close to open greenbelt countryside
- Backs on to protected woodland

SEDGLEY £275,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Wakeman
TEL: 01902 885894
EMAIL: sedgley@wakeman-online.com





Well presented three-bedroomed home

BILSTON

£175,000

A must view! This well presented three-bedroomed home in Elwells Close, Bilston, comes with a conservatory and off road parking and a detached garage.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £175,000.

The property comprises an entrance hall, a living room with a feature fireplace and a bow window overlooking the frontage, a dining room, a kitchen with modern light-wood-effect units and contrasting working surfaces and splash-back tiling, conservatory, detached garage, three bedrooms (one with built-in wardrobes and another with a cupboard) and a family bathroom which is part tiled with a shower, washbasin and WC plus a chrome towel rail. The property benefits from double glazing and gas central heating and a rear garden with a good sized patio and lawn. For further information contact Goodchilds on 01902 267111 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com



Edwardian cottage has been improved

PENN COMMON

£300,000

<<<

A delightful three-bedroomed double fronted Edwardian cottage, Cleve View, 19 Sedgley Road, Penn Common, is on the edge of Penn Conservation Area.

Coming with extensive driveway parking and two garages, it is for sale through Taylors at £300,000.

There are views and the property is within walking distance of the common. Cleve View has been transformed by present vendors over the years carefully retaining fine period aspects including double glazed timber casements, an overhauled roof, re-pointed, re-plastered, upgraded wiring, gas central heating, re-appointed bathroom and kitchen. It has an entrance hall, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, larder, three bedrooms and a bathroom. Contact Taylors on 01902 880888 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



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Charlton Lane, Hartlebury

POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER AUCTION

Guide Price £400,000-£500,000

"Un-polished gem" for sale under the hammer to close an Estate - a captivating non-listed stone built detached country residence of real distinction with BIG potential set some 100ft back from the lane-side and sitting on ABOUT 2.6 ACRES of good level grounds with large paddock. Here is the perfect chance for your very own "grand design" in a prime rural setting surrounded by open Greenbelt countryside & yet with swift & simple access to Worcester City & M5. EPC: E
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Severn Side South, Bewdley DY12 2DX



Guide Price £250,000-£300,000

Two properties being sold together as one lot. Grade II listed former guest house occupying a prime riverside location but now requiring significant refurbishment: currently arranged to provide a selection of reception rooms, bedrooms and bathrooms this building provides immense potential for anyone looking for a renovation/investment project. EPC: E
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or **JOINT SELLING AGENTS: Eden Estates of Bewdley** 01299 402392
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Hanstone Road, Stourport DY13 0HH



Guide Price £80,000-£100,000

FOR SALE UNDER THE HAMMER TO CLOSE AN ESTATE and to be sold on the open market for the first time ever, in a quite original state but with huge potential - a substantial 1950s 2-bedroom semi detached property, untypical for its exceptionally broad style - the house itself, externally, measuring over 10m/33ft across! The property also commands an enormous frontage standing some 115ft back from the kerbside whilst to the rear there are further level gardens plus REAR DRIVEWAY PARKING with direct vehicular access off William Coley Place. All-in-all a rare and special opportunity. Freehold. Vacant possession upon completion. EPC: G
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Trimpley Lane, Bewdley DY12 1RL



Guide Price £80,000-£100,000

Incredibly rare Greenbelt paddock land for the keeping of horses, extending to about 1.53 acres with a Registered Title. There is a gated frontage to Trimpley Lane plus parking, in a highly accessible location not far from the Bellmans Cross Inn and, most importantly, the land also includes a valuable large high quality modern stable with external measurements of 11m x 5.65m - this having been approved by Wyre Forest District Council under application no: WF0016/05. Mains electricity and water. In the Greenbelt but with possible long term "hope value" for future development. Vacant possession upon completion.
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Old Chester Rd South, K'minster DY10 1XL



Guide Price £70,000-£90,000

A 2-bedroom end terraced Victorian cottage in a very private position standing a long way back from the kerbside, behind its own spacious lawned fore-garden, screened by mature hedgerow. The property has already been modernised but would benefit from further improvement and up-grading. Enclosed rear garden, vacant possession upon completion. EPC: D
STOURPORT OFFICE
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Radford Avenue, K'minster DY10 2ES



Guide Price £70,000-£90,000

A 2-bedroom mid terraced house requiring general improvement set within an ultra convenient location on the fringe of Kidderminster town centre, living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden/yard with brick built store, ideal buy-to-let investment, vacant possession upon completion. EPC: C
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Sales advice on offer as the market hots up

Property expert Phil Spencer has some tips for home buyers as the spring property market heats up

The spring housing market is heating up and activity has been buzzing. And while a recent stamp duty increase for buy-to-let investors may have dampened some interest in the market, house sellers remain bullish.

The average price tag on a property coming to market now stands at an all-time high of over £307,000 across England and Wales, according to website Rightmove.

The new rates of stamp duty apply to purchases of additional properties in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

A separate report, from HSBC, shows that the average home buyer takes just 26 hours to decide to make an offer on a house purchase - perhaps fearing that with the supply of homes still tight, the home they have their eye on may be snapped up by someone else.

This 26-hour period is around the same amount of time we spend deciding on whether or not to buy a new pair of shoes - at 25 hours - according to HSBC's survey.

So with competition in the housing market still strong in many parts of the UK, how can would-be buyers give themselves an "edge"?

TV property expert Phil Spencer, a spokesman for the HSBC report, gives his tips...

Is it still possible to pick up a bargain in the current housing market - and if so, how can someone go about it?

"Yes it is still possible, but you need to put dedication into your research, contracts and really build knowledge about the housing market you're interested in."

Before someone makes an offer on a property, is there a financial check-list of things they should have got in place first?

"For your mortgage, you'll be asked for pay slips, bank statements and tax returns at least, so you might as well have them ready to go and don't leave them to the last minute."

How many visits to a property should you ideally make before putting an offer in?

"The new research from HSBC shows one in 10 people make up their minds in two minutes of visiting a property. Sometimes you need to follow your gut instinct, but it's also important to know what to look for when you're viewing and try to visit at least twice, at different times of the day."

Is there anything that buyers can do to give themselves an "edge" over other buyers when making an offer?

"Time can make all the difference when it comes to making an offer on a property. Buyers should be efficient and make sure they have everything in place for their mortgage application.

"Secondly, it's not always about being the highest bidder - your ability to get your finances in a row and solicitors organised helps to show you are a committed purchaser.

"Buying a house is a business transaction and you are going to need to tackle it in this way."

Mortgage upper age limit spirals further into the 80s

The Halifax bank is increasing its upper age limit for mortgages from 75 to 80 and Nationwide have gone even further, raising its upper limit to 85.

The mortgage lender, part of Lloyds Banking Group - the largest retail bank in the UK - announced the move in response to changing demographics.

It means that for new mortgage applications the term will be allowed to run until the borrower's 80th birthday.

Stephen Noakes, managing director for retail customer products at Halifax, said: "As demographics and working habits continue to change, we continually review our products and policies to ensure they reflect the evolving needs of our customers, including those who wish to continue working longer."

Change

An ageing population is one of the biggest features of Britain's recent demographic change.

In the next five years, the number of consumers aged over 65 in the UK is expected to increase by 1.1 million, according to the Financial Conduct Authority.

A survey by Halifax released last week also suggested that one in three 20 to 45-year-olds expect to be working beyond their retirement age to pay off their mortgage.

Among those who are not yet on the property ladder, 39% believe they will be working later in life to pay for their property and one in 12 expect to be paying their mortgage throughout



their life. In addition, major cities are also being heralded as "unaffordable blackspots" for first-time buyers, research from Post Office Money Mortgages found, meaning it may be impossible for some younger buyers to get onto the property ladder without longer terms.

Halifax's announcement comes in the week that Barclays also announced it would offer 100% mortgages to first-time buyers.

The longer age limits massively improve the affordability of loans for older

borrowers. For example, a £100,000 mortgage at age 65, which has to be repaid by the age of 75, costs £966 a month at a 3% interest rate. But if the borrower can extend it to the age of 85, the cost comes down to just £555 a month.

A nice garden could clinch your sale

Looking to sell your home? Your garden could be the deal-clincher if you perk it up for viewers. Eden Project horticulturist Lucy Wenger offers tips on how to improve your garden on a budget

Spring is a good time to sell your home. The weather is improving, people aren't yet going away on their summer holidays and the garden is bursting into life.

Making sure you mow the lawn and keep your flower beds tidy could be your most profitable pastime, according to new research.

Survey

Some 72% of 2,000 home owners who took part in a survey conducted by National Gardening Gift Vouchers believe that a presentable garden adds value to a home.

First impressions are important and if your front garden needs a quick makeover, consider buying a couple of standard trees or shrubs to put either side of the front door for a grander entrance.

Tatty steps can be masked with pots of evergreens which will last even when spring and summer are over, just in case you don't sell the house immediately.

Hide eyesores such as dustbins by putting up a framework of trellis in front



of them and plant fast-growing climbers over it, even if you have to plant the climbers in pots.

Certain design strategies can help make the garden seem bigger. If you have a narrow or L-shaped garden, consider dividing into two areas and introduce archways or pergolas which will make it seem bigger.

Add curves to a bed to make it more interesting, while strategically-placed outdoor mirrors can also make an area feel greater.

They say the smell of bread baking or freshly brewed coffee helps sell a house, but a gorgeously fragrant front garden may also help, if you plant low lavender hedges along the driveway or other scented plants near your front door.

Top Tip

Garden expert Jane Templar has some help for people thinking of selling their home.

She said: "Think about creating a walkway, either through or around your garden.

"This provides a route for potential buyers when they are looking around and means they don't get muddy as they go. Stone makes for a good path in almost any home, although if your house has a cottage-like feel, consider a gravel path, as this is more in keeping with the style of the property."





Upgrades for Toyota's UK-built models in time for summer

By Michael Weston

Toyota's British-built models benefit from some new features for 2016 with improvements to the Toyota Touch 2 multimedia system, retuned hybrid powertrain performance for Auris, and new colour choices.

For Avensis, these changes cap a successful first year on sale, during which time it has proved itself an attractive proposition for both private and fleet/business customers in Europe, offering prestigious, dynamic styling, rich sensory quality inside and out and, thanks to precision chassis and steering engineering, a rewarding experience behind the wheel.

Performance

Customers are appreciating the benefits of the improved CO2 performance across the range of powertrains, including the new 1.6 and 2.0-litre Euro 6-compliant diesels, performance that attracts significant tax benefits in the UK and several other European markets, strengthening the car's cost of ownership profile.

The Toyota Touch 2 multimedia system has been upgraded to the latest 2016 specification, which was unveiled at this year's Geneva motor show.

The centrally mounted seven-inch touchscreen now offers revised menu pages for accessing the system's functions and, where the Toyota Touch 2 with Go is installed, for satellite navigation operation.

Access to the My Toyota online customer portal has also been improved.

Toyota Touch 2 with Go has been repackaged as single navigation offering for Auris and Avensis, supplied as standard with three years of free map updates and connection to online services.

The on board connectivity gives easy access to live information services for fuel prices, weather, parking and traffic conditions local to programmed routes, helping with easier and more efficient journey planning.

Apps

It also enables use of online information, entertainment and social media apps from Google Search, Google Street-view, Aupoe!, Aha and Twitter.

The Auris Hybrid hatchback and Touring Sports wagon are Europe's best-selling hybrid models.

Their driver appeal has been increased with powertrain retuning that delivers an improved, natural driving experience with no compromise in the cars' highly efficient performance.

Toyota's engineers have secured a closer alignment between the increase in engine and vehicle speeds, creating a more linear acceleration feel as the driver applies the throttle.

Ensuring Toyota's line-up keeps on-trend, a new Platinum Bronze metallic paint option has been introduced for Avensis and Auris.

Customers can also specify the latest Solid Blue for their new Auris.

The 2016 Avensis and Auris are on sale now.

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ClassifiedAds

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

UPVC WHITE double glazed window, 71in x 41 1/2, includes vertical blind, £70 ono. 07810 313466.

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent working order, £85 can deliver. 07483 913511.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT UP TO £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Jewels • Quaint • Mercedes Mercedes • Lladro • Old coins
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• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Cuck • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre-47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
HOUSE CLEARANCES
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farish / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
0121 532 2544/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



ALL BRASS / COPPER ornaments/brassware, all descriptions, miners lamps, old medals, dinky, corgi toys. 01902 745598.

MAMOD STEAM engines/trains wanted all conditions, railway collections, Dinky, Corgi vehicles, any condition. 01902 745598.

OLD BIBLES Wanted, pre 1900, for Private buyer. Fair prices paid. Distance no object. Telephone 0115 973 5662.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED SMALL Cultivator in working order. 01902 755200.

RECORDS WANTED
50's, 60's, 70's, Rock, Punk, Rock / Roll, Jazz / 90's Indie. Collections bought.
Music Memorabilia, Promo Posters, autographs, etc, etc.
Top prices paid.
Telephone 07966 252439.

WANTED
Car, motorbike, tractor and truck sales leaflets, brochures, books, handbooks, manuals, models and old motorbike or scooter.
01743 718323.

photography & camcorders

CANON 60D, Body only, Mint Condition. Low use. With usual accessories. Boxed. £300. 07975 586176.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90
WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 430955
01922 716029
07833 738857

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP Discount, Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

A BRILL CLEAN for your Carpets & Suite. O.A.P. Discounts. Best Prices. Call Steve 07496 922364.

double glazing

ATS DOUBLE GLAZING UPVC
back doors from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. 01922 442720.

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL
Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 85897/01902 846167.

external rendering/insulation

EXTERIOR RENDERING full houses, patching, textured/smooth. 40yrs exp. Stuart 01902 324727.

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES For All Your Home Improvements. Over 30 Years Experience. Call Mark 07741 770 897.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING

SPECIAL OFFER
10 days of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. £695

Heavy duty panels supplied and fitted.
6x6 H/D Treated panels £15.95
6x5 Feather edge panels £18.95
8 foot concrete posts £8.95
12 inch x 6 foot gravel boards £7.95

0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, Wbury

DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

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01902 319 191

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Tidy Fencing

Professional Fence Fitters & Gardeners

Established 2001
We are fully insured
NPTC qualified and all work comes with a 12 month warranty.

SPECIAL RATES available to senior citizens.
No job too small.
BIG SPRING DISCOUNT NOW AVAILABLE



Shed refelts now available!

01384 620 072
07908 478 962

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...

Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING

Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID for house clearances and bereavements. Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances. Also removals undertaken. All rubbish removed. Carriers licence held. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED

FULL OR PART GARAGES / SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

painters / decorators

HODGETTS DECORATORS. All aspects of commercial and domestic work. C & G qualified. Free quotes. Call 01902 324128.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER

Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local Careful Firm
Full or Part Loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2998 or 07815 043724

CALL NEDD Now for all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES

Single items, Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 638552.

Stourbridge Removals

20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office, Part loads, landlord clean & repair service. House clearances. Quality service guaranteed lowest rates
Call John - 07802 876 876 office - 01562 640 640

roofing

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FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST
call or email
07896 334 946
t.fowkes@yahoo.co.uk

Experts in all roofing and building aspects including:
• Flat roofing • GRP roofing • Slate and tile roofing • uPVC and all major building works.

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!
No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy, there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
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vets

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PROMOTING
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BUSINESS

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customers get a
great response
from Classified
Advertising.

So could you by
calling our friendly
experienced Sales
Advisors on
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5
Business &
Farming

business
opportunities

READERS are recommended to
take appropriate professional
advice before entering any obli-
gations.

business
services

Did the technology boom of the
new millennium pass you by?

Supplying friendly personal & professional IT
services to get you started or back on track
We also offer spreadsheet & bespoke
database design services
IT Techno-Phobes Ltd
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www.it-techno-phobes.co.uk
enquiries@it-techno-phobes.co.uk

6
Property

accommodation
to let

A FURNISHED studio flat, Claregate, available now to
employed, single, mature, respon-
sible person, inc most bills, secure
parking, £350pcm, 07957 595840.

A TWO BEDROOM flat, over 50's,
Penn Wolverhampton, £450pcm,
Wednesfield HA 01352 468003.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an
offer under the Accommodation
Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency
to charge a fee simply for the regis-
tration of your requirements and/or
supplying particulars of premises to let.

FURNISHED 1 bed flat, Warstones,
recent refurb, close to amenities,
suit working couple/single. £400
pcm. 07969 104254.

ONE BED unfurnished flat, Dudley,
new decor and carpets. Available
May 14. £90 p/w. 01384 288431.

SELF CONTAINED bedsit to let,
near Asda, Wolverhampton.
Private bathroom and kitchen.
£360pcm all inc. 07884 311638.

WILLENHAM, WALSALL Blockwich
houses and rooms to let.
07825 581676.

properties wanted

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7
Jobs

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market
value and more for your property.
Call Rick 07729 297901

overseas
property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments.

courses

TAMWORTH: 2-3 JUNE TELFORD: 3-4 SEPT. Accredited
BIRM'HAM: 15-16 AUG. STOKE: 17-18 SEPT. 

**Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST**
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - Certificate in Phlebotomy
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
More info.
or to book: **www.geopace.com**

Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD - Research - Overseas

full time - general

CENTRAL PROFILES

Field Sales Person

Salary: Starting at £30K+ bonus, mobile phone, laptop and Car
Location: Worcestershire (Covering Mainly Midlands UK)
Job Type: Permanent
Start Date: ASAP

Are you looking for a fantastic field sales opportunity within a well-established, expanding business?

The role will include:-
• Generating new business.
• Generate your own leads and be in complete control of your own diary.
• Generating new leads as well as developing existing accounts, booking appointments and seeing
through the whole sales process.

Successful candidates must have sales experience preferably from the laser, fabrication
background. You must be passionate and ambitious with a hunger to grow the company.

The successful applicant must possess the following attributes:-

- Have at least 2 years' experience of Business to Business sales
- Structured, professional approach to selling
- Full driving licence
- Demonstrate reporting skills at weekly sales meeting at the office
- Able to work with no supervision (But all necessary support will be given)
- Be comfortable engaging all organisational levels in the selling process
- Excellent self-presentation with a trustworthy and mature approach

An engaging personality of strong character, yet likeable with a strong sense of humour.
Contact, in the first instance please contact Jenny Flory, Director with an introductory letter
and CV to jenny@central-profiles.co.uk

8
Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI Q5 SE 2.0 TDI
Quattro Auto Estate, 27 March
2011, met grey, memory heated
sports seats, park plus, 122,000
miles, MoT December, some
marks and chips but good
condition for mileage.
£12,650.
07495 628858/01743 248656.

BMW 318 CONVERTIBLE 1999,
reg. 35k, very good condition, 1
owner, 11 months MoT, includes
hard top, £5,000, 01384 288712.

FORD FOCUS Titanium, 1.6 TDCi,
2010, MoT March 24, 2017, 91,000
miles, any inspection, £4,250,
01902 789597, 07597 567731.

FORD KA ZETEC
2010, 28,000 miles, grey, air
bag, air con, fsh, MoT, metallic
paint, central locking, one
owner, pas, tax, alloys, stereo.
£3,995
01902 892206

JAGUAR 3.0 LITRE SPORT30
plate, 82,000 miles, MoT Dec,
black, immaculate, £2,000, 01902
765163 / 07976 261978.

JAGUAR S-TYPE 2.7, 2004, Diesel,
Auto, full leather, metallic grey,
front / rear parking, MoT. Service
history, 85k, £2,400, 01902 897932

cars under £1500

**ADVERTISERS ARE
REMINDER**
that the Business Advertise-
ments (Disclosure) Order of
1977 requires that advertise-
ments must clearly
differentiate between Private
and Trade.

CITROEN PICASSO EXCLUSIVE
2002, diesel, full MoT, very reliable.
£350 ono. 07810 313466.

FORD FOCUS estate 1.8, 2004,
silver, MoT, first to see will buy.
£800.
07935 827019.

FORD FOCUS ESTATE, 2001,
diesel, blue, 108,000 miles, fsh, 8
months MoT, new battery, £450.
07837 750575.

FORD KA SPORT 04, full MoT, as
new condition, leather interior,
usual extras, silver £850 07469
847837.

JAGUAR X TYPE
2002, 125,000 Miles, Black,
abs, electric windows, alarm,
auto, central locking, pas,
Alloys, Stereo, CD, Leather
Interior, 4 doors MOT
£1,400 ono
07854916429

MAZDA TRIBUTE 54 V6, spares
and repairs, good engine, gear box
and body, good interior, £250 ono.
07816 821960. Worth looking at.

NISSAN MICRA 1.0, S reg., 88,000
miles, 1 owner last 12 years.
12 months MoT, £400, o.n.o.
Telephone 01902 738257.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Estate, silver,
2005, low mileage, FSH, 11 months
MoT, £1,295 ono. 07917 771033.

RENAULT ESPACE 05, mint condi-
tion, leather suede interior, met
dark grey exterior, needs engine
and box, £350 ono. 07816 821960.

SAAB 1999 silver, convertible,
petrol, 6 months MoT, Alarm, PAS,
CD, low mileage, £950 ono.
07399 489503.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 52 reg, 5-
door, 56,000 miles, FSH, CD
player, central locking, 4 new tyres.
£650 ono. 07778 455916.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 51 plate, black,
12 months MoT, CD, front EW, 7
seater, good condition, £900.
04774 334353.

VW GOLF 03, 1.4, petrol, full MoT,
low mileage, alloys, 5dr, EW, AC,
good condition, £575 ono.
07754 557861.

VW PASSAT ESTATE 2002, petrol,
manual, long MoT, 111k miles, CD
player, alloys, very clean, £595.
07950 398750.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private
cash buyer. Instant cash settle-
ment. Any age. Any condition.
01630 653953 or 07713 462797.

commercial
vehicles

VAUXHALL CORSA VAN
Ecoflex, 1300 CDTi, 2007,
86,000 miles, FSH, 7 months
MoT. Two owners from new.
First to see will buy.
Immaculate in/out.
£2,300 ono.
07872 949729.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered!
ADDITIONAL REQUIRED. OR we can deliver to you!
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

HONDA CBR 600
1999, exceptional condition,
very low miles, just over 15,000,
MoT'd, wants for nothing,
recent tyres, chain and sprock-
ets, sold with extras.
£2,200 o.n.o.
07943 120733.

KAWASAKI GTR1000
H reg, 17,000 miles from new,
immaculate condition,
£1,275 ono.

YAMAHA MAJESTY
400cc scooter, 04 reg, 40,000
miles, £900 ono.
Telephone 07877 722908.

TWO BIKE TRAILER superb build,
ramp, spare wheel, locking hitch,
galvanised, 3550.
01902 741598.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded
that it is an offence under the Scrap
Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy
scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR
ALL SCRAP CARS,
VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts
available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and
commercial vehicles. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE
DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or
70553. Evenings 75397.
DY5 3JZ.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 /
07831 245313

BMW Z3 convertible red or grey, or
Mazda MX5, must be reasonable
price and in good condition.
01902 620406.

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best
price for your unwanted cars/vans.
07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares &
accessoriesclutches / brakes
/ gearboxes

**A CLUTCH
CHANGE
MOBILE**
30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or
07972 169554 anytime

For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clio & Micras
Ring for quotes on
others!

tyres / wheels /
exhausts

TYRES For Vauxhall Astra, x 4,
185/65/15, as new, 1 part worn, £25
each. also 155/60/13, part worn,
£10. 07866 750420.

9
Local
Information

public & legal
notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you
may fax any advertising
requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email [marie.hogg@](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk)
[expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk)
(remember to include a
name/contact number for
confirmation of receipt)

**GOODS VEHICLE
OPERATOR'S
LICENCE**

Nicklin Waste Management
Ltd., trading as NWM Skip
Hire of Bromley Street, Lye,
Stourbridge, West Midlands
DY9 8HU is applying for
a licence to use Bromley
Street, Lye, Stourbridge,
West Midlands DY9 8HU
as an operating centre for
THREE goods vehicles and
ONE trailer.

Owners or occupiers of land
(including buildings) near the
operating centre who believe
that their use or enjoyment of
that land would be affected,
should make written
representations to the Traffic
Commissioner at Hillcrest
House, 386 Harehills Lane,
Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their
reasons, within 21 days of
this notice. Representatives
must at the same time send a
copy of their representations
to the applicant at the
address given at the top of
this notice. A Guide to
Making Representations is
available from the Traffic
Commissioner's Office.
Dated May 19, 2016

EDITH VICTORIA MERCER
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any
persons having a claim against or an
interest in the Estate of the afore-
mentioned deceased, late of Prestwood
Nursing Home Prestwood, who died
on 11/03/2016, are required to send
particulars thereof in writing to the
undersigned Solicitors on or before
29/07/2016, after which date the Estate
will be distributed having regard only to
claims and interests of which they have
had notice.

WALDRONS SOLICITORS
Wychbury Court Two Woods Lane
Brierley Hill DY5 1TA T471662

MARY HARVEY
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any
persons having a claim against or an
interest in the Estate of the afore-
mentioned deceased, late of Abbeymere
Care Centre 12 Eggington Road
Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 4JL,
who died on 11/04/2016, are required
to send particulars thereof in writing to
the undersigned Solicitors on or before
22/07/2016, after which date the Estate
will be distributed having regard only to
claims and interests of which they have
had notice.

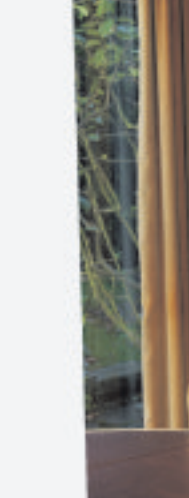
SILKS SOLICITORS LTD
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury
West Midlands B69 4DY T471699

10
Personals

personal

Angels
The largest adult department in
the Midlands
Adult Toys - Sexy Lingerie
Glamour Novels
Unit 5 Frederick Street,
Nottingham NG2 0NE
01922 635544

STRAITS F.C.
Looking for players for next
season at under 9's, 10's and
11's.
Also 5 year olds for Mini
Kickers.
All training Saturday
Mornings at Clubs own private
facility.
Training 10.30am to 11.30am.
Call Steve on 0754 2359020.



**Irene told her bridge
partner her grandson
is a film star.**

*(He plays Background Tourist 4.)
In a Bollywood movie*

We all bend the facts now and then. But advertisers
are not allowed to. If an ad isn't legal, decent, honest
and truthful it mustn't run.

Advertising Standards Authority



**TIPTON TOWN FC
PLAYERS WANTED**
Season 2016/2017
We are looking for players
aged 12 - 21 for the following
teams

Stourbridge League (Sundays)
U13s (based Tividale)
U14s (based Sedgley /
Lanesfield / Tipton)
U18s (based Sedgley /
Lanesfield)
Midland JPL (Saturdays)
U16s (based Tipton)
U18s (based Tipton)
Midland Floodlit League
(Midweek)
U18s (based Tipton Sports
Academy)
Midland Football League
(Saturdays) U21s

If you are interested please
contact
Ann on 07535 975142
or email
tiptontownjuniors@gmail.com



general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your adver-
tisement today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inac-
curacies on the first day of publica-
tion.

CATHOLIC BURIAL PLOT for sale
in Danescourt Cemetery, Penn.
£1,500 ono.
01902 452935.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.

Online at
[www.expressandstar.com](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)
/bookanad

Express & Star DATING

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To **Place** your advert call: **0844 381 5936** and follow the simple instructions

YOU can now **Date ONLINE** or via your mobile just visit: **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet **you.. visit..** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

KATHY, 45, curly blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this rut I am stuck in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422263

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

FEMALE, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walks, going for meals, cinema and love dogs. Text only Mailbox: 4539974

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 5428223

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box 409715

LORRAINE bored 36yr old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/status. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 420237

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

LUCY, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing heavy just no strings meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 407953

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTm man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. Box 4107857

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

CHRISTINE, 48, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete again. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245

MARILYN blue eyed curvy just right female, 36, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTm like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422227

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. Box: 4078682

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257

BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTm male, 66-73, for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc. WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267

CLARA, 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422055

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877

SHARON a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full curvy figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTm male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 5444189

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

TALL leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTm fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food, wine, cosy nights in or out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029

PRETTY, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977

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CARING honest female WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

MANDY divorced independent 46yrs old, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421841

FEMALE seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. Text only Mailbox: 5444151

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

BROWN eyed brummie female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTm white male for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

SHARON 49, med to well built, cuddly, young at heart, happy, easygoing, loves the coast and seaside looking for honest friendly male. Text only Mailbox: 5444189

ROSEMARY early 50s, GSOH, likes meals out, travel, etc. looking for man to share these things with. N/S. Text only Mailbox: 5078990

SUE 40s female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421809

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ Text only to Mailbox: 5440485

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115

MARGARET 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTm child friendly male, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional for no strings fun, affection and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTm child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind man for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic single male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big hearted stocky male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTm very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451

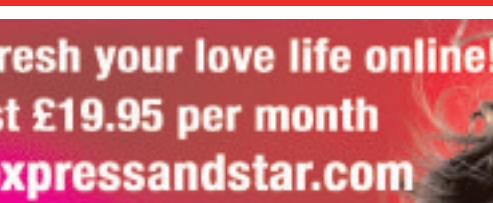
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FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. Text only to mailbox: 5392585

CAROL, 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701

CAROLINE, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTm honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685

LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. Text only mailbox no: 5372466

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DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. Box: 4138405

MALE 44, honest, kind, caring and genuine looking for a long-term relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5422168

DAVID, 58, single, looking for a female partner for friendship and company, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421975

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

WHITE male 58, looking for large built Indian or Black woman for no strings adult fun. Text only Mailbox: 4223520

MIXED Race Male, smart, educated, looking for a lady 35/64 for discreet relationship/friendship. Text only Mailbox: 5462541

DAVE, blue eyes, 5ft 11, looking for love. Only genuine replies. Text only Mailbox: 5457564

COLIN 48, kind loving, seeks cuddly large full figured kind loving lady 50 to 60 for LTR, love, kisses, cuddles, laughing hands as well. Text only Mailbox: 5439562

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, loving, taciturn looking for love again. Text only Mailbox: 5449242

ANDY, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim, dark hair, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialising, looking for a lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783

47 year old guy, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422113

ALWAYS loved it and want to experience an older man, who knows how to make love? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422209

ASIAN gent, 48, kind and caring, wishes to meet lady for chats, weekend outings and LTR, any age/status, etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421811

MALE, 40s, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747

44YRS old male, kind, genuine and honest, looking a long term relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5422168

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LEE, 44, honest, genuine and very caring looking for the same in a woman. Text only Mailbox: 5422168

SINGLE business man, 5'11, brown eyes, well dressed, stocky build, fair skinned, successful, not bad looking, kind, generous WLTm female for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5441173

JOE single 40's Paddy with GSOH, warm hearted, WLTm that single special lady to brighten up my life. Text only Mailbox: 544368

WILL, age 60, slim, grey brown hair, non smoker, keen cyclist, kind Christian man WLTm caring lady to share life with. Lives near Monmouth. Text only Mailbox: 5447401

TONY, very slim, seeks slim female, looks/age unimportant. I am very broadminded, for no strings fun. Very discreet. Text only Mailbox: 5442177

ANDY, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialising, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783

NICK, 41, 5ft7, Taurus, n/s, handsome, likes keeping fit, seeks female 30-40s, for friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421863

MALE, from West Brom, slim, young 49, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747

IAN, 58, medium build, OHAC, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, WLTm similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421345

JOHN, 60s, sincere, looking to love and be loved, hurt in the past, likes meals out, sports and east coast. Text only Mailbox: 4467786

TOM, 58, dark hair, 6ft, seeks older mature female. Size and looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421595

PROFESSIONAL female 62, looking for curvy feminine woman, 50-70, for relationship, loves theatre, films, music, concerts and breaks away. Text only Mailbox: 4435871

YOUNG looking 56 single male, looking for a relationship with petite 40 to 50 year old, likes going out/staying in. Text only Mailbox: 5428643

MIKE, 6ft, medium to big build, WLTm lady for no strings fun, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421359

Gay Singles

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GERALD, 50, very romantic, loving, sincere and caring, WLTm similar. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422345

MATURE male WLTm similar mature male, preferably hairy, bald and over 60 years for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422191

MALE, 56, seeks older male, 70-80, for close adult fun, married welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421475

BI guy WLTm guy for discreet fun. Text only Mailbox: 5142373

MATURE male 61, WLTm male, 50 or 60s, who is on the submissive side, for a long-term friendship. Text only Mailbox: 4236310

JAMIE 35, 5ft10 size 10/12 TV seeks male Leica area. Can accommodate. Text only Mailbox: 4765749

Just Friends

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LUKE 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30 to socialise with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414841

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215

CALL CHARGES: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098/8990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send. Service only available where phone icon shown. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings



Twins Charlotte, left, and Kathrine Whyte, from Fordhouses



Pathway manager Bob Askey



Coach Leigh Rees points the way to two young women players



Staffordshire women's batsman Alex Hale

Cricketing maidens look to stump the opposition

STAFFORDSHIRE women are padding up for a summer of high-class action alongside England's finest.

The county side had their first taste of top-flight cricket this month when they opened their ECB Women's County Championship Division One season.

Wolverhampton's Danescourt Road ground was the venue for the clash with Berkshire, who won by eight wickets.

But Staffordshire can look to build on last season's successful promotion-winning campaign as they host Yorkshire and Middlesex before the season's end in September, as well as travelling to face Kent, Warwickshire, Surrey and Sussex.

Under the watchful eye of performance and pathway manager Bob Askey and coach Leigh Rees, Staffs have made impressive progress on the field.

They set out with a five-year plan to reach the top division and achieved their aim with 12 months to spare.

Interest

And now Askey believes the chance to face the cream of English cricket will help to further lift the profile of the women's game across the county.

"Last season's promotion has helped to promote women's cricket around the county and I am sure playing at the top level will help generate more interest," he said.

"Women's cricket has always been strong in Staffordshire and we are looking to take the opportunity to grow the game further."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"Women's cricket has always been strong in Staffordshire and we are looking to take the opportunity to grow the game further."

"The key is to make the game accessible, whether it's games with a hard ball, soft ball or with an in-crediball."

Askey added: "It has been a busy winter. We have run various leagues throughout the winter and some women-only coaching sessions."

"We have also got a number of festivals planned throughout the summer and will have a girls only academy this year for the first time."

And while there have been positive steps taken during the winter months, Askey is well aware of the challenges facing his squad on the field this summer.

The top players in the English game are now supported full-time by the England and Wales Cricket Board and the Staffs girls, including Fordhouses twins Charlotte and Kathryn Whyte, Wolverhampton's Alex Hale and Bloxwich's Cheryl Alcock, will be lining up against members of the England Test and one-day outfits. The national side, captained by Char-

lotte Edwards, reached the semi-finals of the recent World T20 competition - won by the West Indies - and Askey is keen to see how his troops measure up as they try to emulate Danielle Wyatt and Georgia Elwiss, both of whom progressed through the Staffs ranks and have gone on to represent their country.

"They will be playing against England stars this summer and there is no doubt it is going to be tough for them," added Askey.

"But they are a pretty resilient and determined bunch and they are looking forward to the challenge."

"Danielle Wyatt and Georgia Elwiss have both gone on to play for England and it's a great incentive for them."

Strategies

"We will be facing some great opposition and some quality players and that is what you want to be doing."

"We have been running various sessions throughout the winter and we are now focusing on various strategies that we will need."

"The level of fitness in the top division will be better and there will be a greater intensity to the games."

"The players at this level will be a lot more consistent. We will need to be more patient in our approach."

Berkshire, Kent, Middlesex, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire and Yorkshire will provide the championship opposition this summer while Staffs will lock horns with Durham, Essex, Hampshire, Somerset, Surrey, Wales and Worcestershire in the T20 competition.

The T20 format sees three teams playing on one day with one round of matches scheduled for Worcestershire's New Road base.

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Heathens in crunch clash with rivals

CRADLEY face a crunch clash with rivals Coventry at Pottinger on Monday – and boss Will Pottinger is telling his riders to stop throwing points away.

The Heathens were sent crashing to a 51-39 defeat when the sides met at Brandon earlier this month – but they could and should have claimed at least a point after crashing and suffering bike problems in winning positions.

Now Pottinger is urging his riders to go for revenge when the sides meet again at Wolverhampton with Heathens looking to make it five straight home wins.

He said: "We threw a large number of points away against Coventry and if we'd have held on to those then we would probably have come away with a narrow win."

"It was a frustrating night but now it's time to focus on getting the better of them at our own place. We want to continue where we left off against the Isle of Wight at home. We showed some good character to bounce back and get another home victory under our belts. We pulled together as a team once again and we came out on top in a tough battle."

Pottinger says it will take another solid all-round effort to notch a fifth successive home win on Monday. "It's going to take another whole team performance against Coventry and we're especially looking for important contributions from the second string and reserve positions to support our powerful heat-leaders."

"We're really pleased with how Ben Basford is progressing, even since moving into the main body of the team, he's showing some encouraging signs and he's progressing with every race he does. "I was chuffed for James Purchase who got his highest score of the season against the Isle of Wight; his contribution from reserve was one of the key differences between us winning and losing."

DK over 35s runners get their chance to shine in the sun

THERE was more fun in the sun at the weekend for athletes from Dudley King-swinford Running Club as a group travelled to Sutton Park in Birmingham on Saturday for the 28th National Masters Road Relay.

Open to athletes over 35 years of age in teams of four or six this event attracted clubs from as far as Scotland and London with each runner racing a three mile lap before handing over to their team mate.

The ladies team kicked things off with the blue hoops finishing in 26th place in a total time of 1:57.07 with Vanessa Morrison running 29.34, Leah Robins 35.33, Liz Comley 27.19 and Sarah Cox 24.41.

There were three men's teams on show, the M35 team finishing in 26th place out of 38 teams in a time of 1:52.38 with Matt Biggs 17.18, Darran Bishop 18.40, Simon Blizard 18.12, Simon Hughes 18.15, James Wright 18.19 and John Andrews 21.54.

There were two teams competing in the M45 age group, the A team finishing in 37th out of 48 and the B team coming 42nd in 1:22.33.

Karate kids prove fundraising belters



Young Gloves with Kemp for Kids representatives

KARATE kids proved little belters as they raised more than £3,500 for charity.

More than 200 members of Young Gloves Karate, which has a club in Stourbridge, took part in an annual children's competition, fighting it out for 84 trophies. Money was also raised from a summer barbecue, as well as via sponsorships, raffles and stalls.

Cheques were presented to the Brain Tumour Charity for £767.14, to Kemp For Kids, part of Kemp Hospice for £976.59, to Little Hearts Matter for £868.08 and Mentor link for £976.59.

Sensei Justin Thomas and Gerard Thomas,

Karate

Sensei and events co-ordination marketing manager, presented the cheques.

Meanwhile, the club enjoyed success at the British Open championships. Golds were won by Kayleigh Avery in the 13-15 years kumite and silver by Lewis Meacher in the 16-18 years kumite.

Joel Russello and Tom Ames both claimed bronze in the 16-18 years kumite and Lewis Meacher in the kata for the same age. Emily Day returned with bronzes, in the 13-15 and then the 16-18 years kumite along with Ashleigh Avery.

KING'S LADS WIN TREBLE

THE future looks bright for Stourbridge after the young Glassboys celebrated a third treble in eight seasons.

The youth team, who play their home games at the club's War Memorial Stadium, have enjoyed another ultra-successful season under boss Dave King.

King's youthful charges eased to a Midland Youth Floodlit League title, as well as being crowned Staffordshire FA Youth Cup and Worcestershire FA Youth Cup champions.

There was even room for a fairytale FA Youth Cup run with a last-minute goal halting the Glassboys' impressive progress.

They charged through four rounds to make the first round proper before losing out 3-2 against full-time outfit Chesterfield.

Stratford Town threatened to challenge King's side in the Premier Division South, but a stunning record of 13 wins and one defeat from 14 games proved too much for their challengers.

It was the Glassboys' 2-0 Amblecote win over Stratford on April 6 that all sealed the title.

Committed

"We've had a very good season with the treble and reaching the first round of the FA Youth Cup," said the boss, who has been in charge for nine years and involved in junior football for almost three decades.

"They really are a good band of first years and second years."

"I have my own business and football's a hobby, it's a long old season from August to now but it makes it worth it."

"There are committed parents and families that have to help out, particularly with midweek away trips when a lot of the lads don't drive."

King was ably assisted by Gary Brown, coach Steve Fellows and goalkeeping coach Steve Meeson.

Despite agonisingly falling short against Chesterfield, cup celebrations arrived in the form of a 5-2 victory over Bilston Town in the Staffs Cup at Stafford Rangers' Marston Road, while Kidderminster Harriers were ousted 3-1 at Stourport Swifts' Walshe Meadow in the Worcestershire Cup showdown.



Stourbridge FC youth team celebrate another successful season

The silverware clearly means a lot to a tight-knit group of players and staff, but King admitted he marvels just as much in seeing talent progress. During first team boss Gary Hackett's lengthy spell as Stourbridge manager, the club have handed countless opportunities to youngsters who have caught the eye at youth level.

King added: "To see Jacob Wedderburn, Shay Palmer, Freddie Watts and Darragh Bustin feature for the first time is great."

"Over the years we've had Jordan Murphy and Kieran Morris go straight from us to the pro game, they went to Walsall and Brentford."

"This season there were scouts from pro clubs

watching us a fair bit and we had Bristol City enquire about one of the lads."

"The team is about 50-50 in terms of first and second years. We'll have the same back four next year so hopefully we can kick on and go again."

The youth team consists of under-18s, with Stourbridge featuring in the Midland Floodlit League Premier South, with nine more sides in the 'northern' equivalent.

"I think it would make sense to amalgamate them," the boss said. "The season is long enough already with 14 league games and loads of cup but combining them will make it more competitive."

Hales win derby match with Stour

Halesowen 1st XI 153-4 beat Stourbridge 1st XI 151 by six wickets

THE local derby between Halesowen 1st XI and Stourbridge 1st XI resulted in a six wicket victory for the home side.

The toss was won by Stour skipper Matt Bradley who decided to have the first strike. Stour made a determined start but lost their way through a middle order collapse.

Opens Matt Bradley and Alex Bingham provided the platform to set the opposition a challenging target. Bingham was first to go, caught off Alex Bullyingham for 31 with the total on 47. Richard Brooker bowled Matt Bradley for 26. At the halfway stage Stour were 83-2, still well placed to build an imposing total with 25 overs remaining.

A promising knock by Tarryck Gariel was cut short by Brooker who had Tarryck out LBW for 11. Josh Banks was judged LBW for seven to spinner Hassan Quam. More disasters followed, Richard Bradley run out for a duck and James Winders another LBW victim sweeping to Jack Myers without scoring. Stour's innings was reduced to 115-6 with 10 overs remaining.

Fifteen-year-old Zain Hassan who came in at number three was bowled by Bullyingham for 42 as Halesowen bowlers restricted the opposition from batting out their full 50 overs. Richard Brooker ended with 3-17 off eight overs and Myer's three wickets cost just seven runs off six overs.

Stour bowlers captured the wickets of opener Mark Fisher for a single and Kester Moseley was out for three, wickets falling to Umar Kahlid and Zain Hassan respectively. Ed Kilbee and Jack Myers played their side back into the game putting on 89 runs. William Barrett (19) and Kilbee not out on 56 off 96 balls saw Halesowen home with 18 overs to spare.

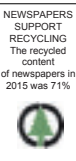
Bronze return for triathlete Rogers

BLACK Country Triathlete Paul Rogers came back with a well-earned bronze for his age group, representing Great Britain in the European Long Distance Duathlon Championships in Copenhagen. The discipline comprised a 10k run, 60k bike ride and a further 10k run.

Club colleague Liz Hettle faced unseasonal conditions in Mallorca for the Ironman 70.3 middle distance triathlon, finishing in a good time of 07:44:55 after a 1.2 mile sea swim, 56-mile bike and a 13.1 mile run.

Jacob Anson also took first place in the Darwins Challenge Aquathlon in Shrewsbury.

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